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Chief Reporter
Punjab Legislative Sabha
Chandigarh

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

—:—0:—

3rd MAY, 1952

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VOL. I No. 1

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OFFICIAL REPORT



Chief Reporter
Punjab Vidhan Sabha
Chandigarh

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SATURDAY, 3rd MAY, 1952

Swearing in of Members

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 3rd May, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2-30 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Acting Speaker (the hon. Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

Acting Speaker (The hon. Dr. Satya Pal *) : Before we proceed, I would like to read out the order received from the Governor appointing me to administer the oath to the hon. Members.

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Article 183 of the Constitution of India, I, Chandu Lal Madhav Lal Trivedi, Governor of the Punjab, do hereby appoint Dr. Satya Pal to be the person before whom every member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly shall before taking his seat, make and subscribe the prescribed oath or affirmation.

Now I would administer the oath in the following order. The hon. Ministers would be the first to take the oath. Then I have received a letter from Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt that as he is not able to stand the strain, he should be administered the oath after the hon. Ministers. Afterwards the lady Members will take the oath and later the hon. Members according to the alphabetical order.

Swearing in of Members.

The following members were then sworn in :—

• The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Schar	... Ludhiana City South.
✓ The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon	... Patti.
• The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh	... Nakodar.
✓ The hon. Chaudhri Lehri Singh	... Ganaur.
• The hon. Pandit Sri Ram Sharma	... Sonapat.
• The hon. Shri Jagat Narain	... Chandigarh.
• The hon. Chaudhri Sundar Singh	.. Gurdaspur.
Shri Krishna Gopal Dutt	.. Panipat.
Shrimati Parkash Kaur	... Ramdas.
Shrimati Shanno Devi	... Amritsar City West.
Shrimati Sita Devi	... Jullundur City South-East.
Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan	... Ambala City.

*Dr. Satya Pal had previously taken the oath before his Excellency the Governor.

✓ Shri Abdul Ghani Dar ✓	... Nuh.
Shri Abhai Singh ✓	... Rewari.
Sardar Achhar Singh ✓	... Ajnala.
Sardar Ajmer Singh	... Samrala.
Shri Amir Chand Gupta ✓	... Amritsar City Central.
Shri Babu Dayal ✓	... Sohna.
Sardar Bachan Singh ✓	.. Bagha Purana.
Shri Badlu Ram ✓	... Kalanaur.
Shri Baloo Ram ✓	... Balachaur.
Shri Balwant Rai Tayal ✓	.. Hissar City.
Sardar Balwant Singh ✓	... Khalra.
Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta ✓	... Thanesar.
Shri Bhagat Ram ✓	... Haripur.
Sardar Bhag Singh ✓	... Muktsar.
Sardar Bhag Singh ✓	... Kot Bhai.
Shri Bishna. ✓	... Nawanshahar.
Sardar Chanan Singh. ✓	... Tanda.
Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat ✓	... Jhajjar.
Shri Chandi Ram Verma ✓	... Abohar.
Shri Chuni Lal ✓	... Rewari.
Shri Dalbir Singh Gohar ✓	... Fatehabad.
Sardar Darbara Singh. ✓	... Nurmahal.
Sardar Darshan Singh ✓	... Tarn Taran.
✓ Shri Daulat Ram ✓	... Kaithal.
Shri Daulat Ram Sharma ✓	... Hamirpur.
Shri Dev Datt Puri ✓	... Jagadhri.
Shri Devi Lal ✓	... Sirsa.
Sardar Devinder Singh ✓	.. Moga-Dharamkot.
Shri Dev Raj Anand ✓	... Ambala Cantt.
Shri Dev Raj Sethi ✓	... Rohtak City.
Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht ✓	.. Hassanpur.
Rao Gajraj Singh ✓	... Gurgaon.
Shri Ganga Ram. ✓	... Fatehabad.
Sardar Gopal Singh. ✓	... Jagraon.
Shri Gopi Chand ✓	... Pundri.
Shri Gorakh Nath	... Narot Jaimal Singh.
Bhagat Guran Dass Hans. ✓	.. Hoshiarpur.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa ✓	... Nawanshahar.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal ✓	... Batala.
Sardar Gurbanta Singh	.. Adampur.

Shri Gurdatt Singh ✓
 Sardar Gurdial Singk Dhillon ✓
 Sardar Gurdial Singh ✓
 Principal Harbhajan Singh ✓
 Shri Hari Ram ✓
 Sardar Hari Singh ✓
 Shri Harnam Singh Sethi ✓
 Sardar Iqbal Singh ✓
 Shri Jagat Ram ✓
 ✓ Shri Jagdish Chand
 Shri Jagdish Chandra ✓
 Sardar Joginder Singh ✓
 Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail, ✓
 Sardar Karnail Singh Sidhu ✓
 Sardar Kartar Singh ✓
 Shri Kasturi Lal Goel ✓
 Shri Kesho Das ✓
 Sardar Khem Singh ✓
 Shri Khushi Ram Gupta ✓
 Shri Kadar Nath Saigal ✓
 Shri Lajpat Rai ✓
 Shri Lal Chand Prarthi ✓
 Shri Mam Chand ✓
 Shri Mam Raj ✓
 Shri Mansa Ram Kuthiala ✓
 Shri Maru Singh Malik ✓
 Shri Mehar Singh ✓
 Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar ✓
 Chaudhri Mohd. Yasin Khan ✓
 Shri Mool Chand Jain ✓
 Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri ✓
 Sardar Mukhtiar Singh ✓
 Shri Nand Lal ✓
 Shri Nanhu Ram ✓
 Shri Naranjan Dass Dhiman ✓
 Sardar Naurang Singh ✓
 Sardar Nidhan Singh ✓
 Master Partap Singh ✓
 Bakshi Partap Singh ✓
 Sardar Partap Singh Rai ✓

... Palwal.
 .. Kartarpur.
 ... Jhabhal.
 ... Garhshankar.
 ... Dharamsala.
 .. Dasuya.
 ... Ferozepore.
 .. Jagraon.
 ... Hoshiarpur.
 ... Shahabad.
 ... Ludhiana City North.
 .. Dera Baba Nanak.
 ... Palampur.
 .. Dabwali.
 ... Garhshankar.
 ... Asandh.
 ... Pathankot.
 ... Amritsar.
 .. Amb.
 ... Ballabgarh.
 ... Hansi.
 ... Kulu.
 ... Gohana.
 ... Bhiwani.
 ... Una.
 ... Sampla.
 ... Hamirpur.
 ... Tarn Taran.
 ... Ferozepore-Jhirka.
 ... Sambhalka.
 ... Adampur.
 .. Moga-Dharamkot.
 .. Karnal.
 .. Gohana.
 .. Phillaur.
 ... Samrala.
 ... Mehna.
 ... Rupar.
 ... Sujanpur.
 ... Guru Har Sahai.

Sardar Partap Singh Ratta Khera ✓	... Mallanwala.
Shri Phaggu Ram ✓	.. Butana.
Shri Prabodh Chandra ✓	... Gurdaspur.
Sardar Pura Singh ✓	... Kot Bhai.
Shri Raghubir Singh ✓	... Seraj.
Sardar Rajindar Singh Gyani ✓	... Rupar.
Shri Rala Ram ✓	... Mukerian.
Shri Ram Chand Comrade. ✓	... Nurpur.
Shri Ram Kishan ✓	... Jullundur City North-West.
Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat. ✓	... Bhiwani.
Shri Ram Parkash ✓	... Molana.
Shri Ram Sarup ✓	... Butana.
Shri Ranjit Singh ✓	... Hissar Sadar.
Sardar Rattan Amol Singh ✓	.. Molana.
Shri Rizaq Ram ✓	... Rai.
Shri Sadhu Ram ✓	.. Naraingarh.
Shri Samar Singh ✓	... Garaunda.
Shri Sant Ram ✓	... Nakodar.
Sardar Saroop Singh ✓	... Amritsar City East.
Shri Sarup Singh ✓	.. Narnaunda.
Sardar Shamsher Singh. ✓	... Ludhiana Sadar.
hri Sher Singh ✓	... Jhajjar.
Sardar Shib Singh ✓	... Rania.
Shri Sri Chand ✓	... Bahadurgarh.
Sardar Sohan Singh ✓	... Beas.
Shri Som Datt ✓	... Simla
Shri Teg Ram ✓	... Khuian Sarwar.
Sardar Uttam Singh ✓	... Sri Gobindpur.
Shri Wadhawa Ram ✓	... Fazilka.
Sardar Waryam Singh ✓	... Amritsar.
Sardar Waryam Singh. ✓	... Serah.
Sardar Wazir Singh. ✓	... Delhon.

Acting Speaker : I think the hon. Members will have received the agenda for the next sitting. The House will meet on Mondy, the 5th May, 1952, at 2 p. m.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, the 5th May, 1952.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

5th May, 1952

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 5th May, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Acting Speaker (The hon. Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The following Member was sworn in.

Shri Hari Chand (Anandpur).

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

Acting Speaker : Item No. 2 on the Order Paper is the 'Election of the Speaker'.

Chief Minister (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : I beg to move:
That the hon. Dr. Satya Pal who is present in the House do take the Chair as Speaker of the Assembly.

Minister For Revenue And Development (The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : I second the motion.

Acting Speaker : Is there any other proposal ?

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) : I propose

That Sardar Partap Singh Ratta khera who is present in the House do take the Chair as Speaker of the Assembly.

Sardar Partap Singh Rai (Guru Har Sahai) : I second the motion.

Acting Speaker : Is there any other proposal ? (Voices : No) Then according to rules, I take up the first proposal. The question is :

That Dr. Satya Pal who is present in the House do take the Chair as Speaker of the Assembly.

Those who are in favour of the motion please rise in their seats. Members rose in their seats. Those who are against the motion please rise in their seats. Some members rose in their places.

Since an overwhelming majority of members have supported the motion, I declare that the motion moved by the hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar and duly seconded by the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, is carried. (*Cheers*).

[Acting Speaker]

Now I call upon Dr, Satya Pal to take the Chair as Speaker of the Assembly. (*Renewed cheers*)

Chief Minister (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a sense of great pleasure that I rise to offer my hearty congratulations to you on your election as the Speaker of this august House constituted under the New Constitution. In view of your experience, integrity, intellect and quick understanding of things and such other eminent qualities you are decidedly the most befitting person to hold this high office. When I am reminded of the innumerable sacrifices made by you in the cause of our country's freedom, I feel that it is not only you who deserve to be congratulated for having been elected as the Speaker of this august House, but also the hon. Members of this House, too, who have in a most magnificent manner elected you by an over-whelming majority, equally deserve to be congratulated (*Cheers*). So while offering my felicitations to you, I cannot do without congratulating the hon. Members for electing you in a well disciplined and magnificent manner

My hon. Friends are aware of the fact that this House has been constituted under the provisions of the New Constitution. This Chair has its own traditions which have been set up by high personages occupying it from time to time and I have no doubt that you will, during the tenure of your office, add to the dignity and grandeur of the Chair by maintaining the high traditions of the House.

Mr. Speaker, we are passing through critical times. We have set ourselves to the service of our motherland. It is not the people in the galleries alone who watch our day-to-day proceedings, but I think the eyes of millions, nay the whole world are turned towards us. They watch our proceedings, what we do on the floor of this House, with profound interest.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure, that during the tenure of your high office the proceedings of this House would be conducted in a very befitting and dignified manner. Your noble personality is the very embodiment of long sufferings and sacrifices made in the attainment of our country's freedom. Yours is the most appropriate personality to adorn this Chair. I have no doubt that, under your leadership, there will be strict order and discipline in the House. I am sure that the hon. Members will not lose sight of the sense of proportion while

making speeches on the floor of the House and will thus succeed in maintaining its high traditions. Mr. Speaker, as Leader of the House, I offer you my hearty felicitations on your election as Speaker of this august House and pray the Almighty that under your able guidance and leadership we may be able to leave behind high traditions to be followed by others. Permit me to say, Sir, that in you we find independence of judgment, impartiality and fairness which are essentially required of a Presiding officer of this House. I am sure, the historians, while writing the history of our Free India will make a record of your work during the tenure of your office in golden letters.

Minister For Revenue And Development (The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I express my great pleasure on your election as Speaker of this august House. Everybody knows that you are a Congress leader of long standing and high repute, who fought against British Imperialism for many years. Your name has been associated with the struggle for independence since the martial law days and the shameful happening of Jallianwala Bagh firing when the Indian Independence Movement gathered momentum. It was 33 years ago that you raised the banner of revolt against the foreign rule and since then you have been working with unabated zeal and vigour for the welfare of the country. Your contributions to the cause of the country's freedom are immense. It was but proper that in recognition of your selfless services the choice of offering this exalted office of Speakership should have fallen upon you. I am fully confident that you will raise the prestige of the House, and, in fact, of the Punjab by your outstanding ability and independence of character. I offer my hearty congratulations to you on behalf of the Congress Assembly Party and I appreciate the decision of the House for having elected you as the Speaker of this august House. By arriving at this decision the House has rightly judged the sterling qualities of your head and heart. I am sure that you will discharge the duties of this office admirably and receive the fullest cooperation from all the members in maintaining the discipline of the House. Under your leadership we will add not merely to the dignity of the House but to the dignity of each member of the House. I am confident that you will be able to solve all the complicated problems and on our part we assure you of our full cooperation in all matters. Just as you have toiled for the country's cause and struggled heroically for the liberation of the country, similarly I hope, that under your able guidance, the new Punjab will march forward to progress and during the life of this

[Minister for Revenue and Development]

Assembly you will have earned a great name for yourself and that you will leave behind good traditions and conventions.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I offer my hearty congratulations to you on your election as the Speaker of this House. There is no denying the fact that every Punjabi is fully aware of the sacrifices you have made in the cause of the freedom of the country. I have nothing to say against your person but am against the party to which you belong as that party has never respected the law of the land in the past. (Voices : No.). It was because of this that my party had proposed the name of Sardar Partap Singh, an independent member, for the office of Speakership. The hon. Speaker should be a non-party man and so we proposed the name of an independent candidate.

Mr. Speaker : On such an occasion I do not think that any hon. Member should attack any party. If you do not wish to congratulate me, please don't. But do not mar the grace of the occasion by attacking the party to which Shri Bhim Sen Sachar and Sardar Partap Singh belong.

Sardar Wazir Singh : I then congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Speaker of this House and assure you that our party will offer full cooperation to you in the maintenance of discipline in the House.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : (Amritsar West City) (*Hindi*) Sir. I congratulate you today on your election as Speaker of the House. I am speaking on behalf of the young and old, men and women of the State and feel proud to see the 'lion of the Punjab' in the Chair. We all feel happy over this decision. As a matter of fact the Punjab needs such men as you possessing an iron will and a strong determination to guide its destinies. I must say that the Congress Assembly Party and the Congress High Command have done great favour to the members of this House by arriving at such a decision. It will take a fairly long time of the House if I were to attempt to recapitulate the services rendered by you in the cause of the country. In fact the whole Punjab feels proud and honoured on your occupying this Chair. There are some persons who attain prominence and popularity by occupying a Chair of power and authority, but a gifted man like you, with your towering personality and outstanding qualities, will certainly adorn the Chair that you have occupied. I am sure that your name will find a rightful place in the

history of Punjab and the future generations will appreciate your exceptional virtues and uncommon qualities. Sir, I know of a time when you raised a slogan that you would see your neck broken rather than bend before the British Government. It was indeed commendable that you refused to be cowed down by the strong British Government. That was the time when strong and supermen like you were needed to drive away alien rulers from the Indian soil. I feel that there is even a greater need of strong men like you when Punjab is as yet in the making. I thank God that the House has been able to get a strong and experienced man like you to preside over its deliberations. Our past experience has shown that many of the honourable members did not care to maintain discipline and dignity of the House.

Mr. Speaker : I expect that the hon. Members would only make congratulatory speeches and refrain from casting reflections on the ex-Members of the Assembly. If any of the hon. Member does not feel inclined to offer his congratulations to me, he may not do so.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : With these words, Sir, I offer my hearty congratulations to you on behalf of my party and consider it as a piece of good luck that a person like you has been elected the Speaker of this House.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Punjabi) : Sir, I had proposed the name of Sardar Partap Singh.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not discuss or criticise the decision of this House. If any hon. Member feels inclined to congratulate me he may do so, but I will not allow the hon. Members to speak in favour of any other candidate or to say anything against the Chair.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir, I congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this House. You have been elected as Speaker because you happen to belong to a party which commands the majority in this House. I hope that you will give a fair deal to all the parties in this House. So far as the allotment of time for speeches is concerned, I trust you will give an equal opportunity to the Opposition Party so that it may be able to give a free expression to its views and offer criticism on all issues that come up before the House. If you set up

[Sardar Chanan Singh]

good conventions in this House you will then really deserve the congratulations of the Opposition Party.

Another thing which I would like to bring to your kind notice is this. Some of the hon. Members belonging to the Congress party have dwelt on the fact that your past career has been out and out anti-imperialist and that it has been one long struggle against imperialism. But, Sir, my submission is that today your party is not anti-imperialist. It is the party which is running the Government.

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Sir. May I just crave your indulgence to tell the hon. Member through you that after a member has been elected as Speaker, he ceases to be a member of any party.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir, once again I congratulate you on your election to the office of Speakership. It is my most earnest hope that you will hold the scales even between the Government party and the Opposition in all matters relating to this House. It is only in this way that the true voice of the people will be heard here.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) Sir, (*Hindi*) : I could not decide whether I should first congratulate myself, the House or the hon. Dr. Satyapal because I thought that each one equally deserved this honour. I think I am right when I say that, we the members of this House, who have got the services of such a brave, fearless and able personage as the Speaker deserve to be congratulated more than anyone else. You have, Sir, by your example shown how fearlessly a true patriot can face the armed might of an imperialistic power regardless of all difficulties and hardships.

I think I am right in saying that this House has no older 'general' in it than yourself—nay even this State has none of your standing and calibre. I have every hope—nay it is an article of faith with me—that you will not only maintain but improve upon the best traditions of this office of Speakership and this House just as you have been among the foremost in maintaining the dignity and carrying forward the traditions of your country. With the fullest confidence in your adding to the dignity of this Chair, I congratulate you most heartily.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, on behalf of the Opposition, I congratulate you most heartily. Before your election as Speaker you belonged to the Congress party and, therefore, we had decided to support the candidature of an independent member to the office of Speakership but now that you have been elected, we look upon you as a non-party man and assure you of the fullest co-operation of the Opposition in conducting the business of this Assembly. At the same time we hope that you will not fail to extend to us the same facilities and privileges and opportunities of expressing our view-point as to the members belonging to the government party. We also expect you to lend us a helping hand in the maintenance of the traditions of an Opposition and let us play our due role in the deliberations of this Assembly. On our part, we assure you of our best endeavour to keep up and enhance the dignity of the Chair.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : (Ballabgarh) (*Hindi*). Sir, it is our infinite good luck that we find you today occupying and gracing the Speaker's Chair. I have, therefore, great pleasure in paying a tribute to the ability, farsightedness and wisdom of those hon. Members who have chosen a man, like you for this honour. My memory takes me back to the ominous year—1919—when a very dark cloud hung over the Indian horizon and there was not a ray of light to be seen. Here is seated before me a warrior of those perilous times—Pandit Jagat Ram—who was then undergoing a sentence of transportation for life. I too was under detention in some jungle. We were wondering who would raise his voice now against British imperialism. A little later the news reached us that in Amritsar a patriot had raised the banner of independence and that patriot was Dr. Satyapal (*Cheers*). Today if we have the freedom of speech, discussion and criticism inside these Assemblies and Councils as well as outside, it is in a very large measure due to the efforts made by persons like Dr. Satyapal who were always ready to defy the alien government and inhabit its jails. There is no gainsaying the fact that Dr. Satyapal has devoted the best part of his life to the service of his country and nation. I am very happy to find that today this State has honoured one of its bravest sons in a befitting manner and I have every hope that he will, like the late Vitthalbhai Patel in the days of British rule, maintain and enhance the dignity of the Chair.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*): Sir, on your election to the office of Speakership, I congratulate you most heartily on my own as well as on behalf of my friends.

Minister for Capital Project: Friend or friends? (Laughter)

Shri Sri Chand: That way, everybody here is my friend. Sir, with your ripe age and mature experience, I am sure you will succeed eminently in maintaining the dignity of this House. In all sincerity I assure you of our most willing co-operation with you in all matters pertaining to this House, and I hope that you will also accord us equality of treatment along with others.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City North West) (*Hindi*):— Sir, it is a great pleasure to offer felicitations to you on your election as Speaker of this august House. I am reminded of the days 33 years ago when you first raised the standard of liberty against the tyranny of the Britishers. Now it is gratifying to see that the dream which we dreamt three decades ago has been realised in the true sense of the word under your able guidance. I congratulate you for your fearlessness, ability and statesmanship with which you have led us through the struggle for Independence. It will be no exaggeration to say that no one else except you could have guided the deliberations of the Punjab Branch of the Indian National Congress with such zeal and ability as you did 25 years ago and tried your level best to steer the ship of the Punjab Congress through thick and thin and led it to its destination. I hope that the expectations of those friends who gave you the title of the "law breaker" will be realised when during the tenure of your exalted office you maintain the high traditions established by Sardar V. J. Patel, Shri P. D. Tandon, Sardar Kapoor Singh and Syed Nausher Ali. It may be stated that 30 years ago in this very Assembly Chamber Shri V. J. Patel while presiding over the deliberations of the Assembly set up such lofty traditions as have become a land mark in the history of Legislatures in India. The independence of thought which the hon. Shri Patel showed, will ever be remembered. I am confident that just as 30 years ago when in this land of Ranjit Singh, Bhagat Singh, Kishan Singh and Lala Lajpat Rai, you laid the foundation of unity among Hindus, Sikhs

[Shri Ram Krishan]

and Muslims by sinking their differences, you will be instrumental in the erection of the new Punjab of our dreams.

Now, Sir, we are passing through critical times. Two great ideologies are coming into conflict with each other. The first is propounded by the Communists who want to establish their dictatorship in the country and the other is the establishment of unadultrated democracy in this land. It is my fervent desire that under your able leadership we should succeed in establishing that Parliamentary Democracy of which this is the beginning, and for the establishment of which we have sacrificed our all. I am sure after the lapse of 5 years our system of government will prove a great success. I remember that in the united Punjab when the late Sir Sikander Hayat Khan was at the helm of affairs, you put a tough fight against the Unionist Government and before that successfully resisted the "Dyer Sahib". I, therefore, hope that a new Punjab will emerge under your leadership and all sections of the people will have this feeling that you belong to all and not to one party alone. In the end I hope that by keeping up the high traditions of your office you will keep the flag of Punjab flying aloft. Well, Sir, I again congratulate you on your election.

Sardar Partap Singh Ratta Khera (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, being a candidate for the office of the Speakership I had the first right to congratulate you on your having been elected as Speaker of this House. I, therefore, offer my heartiest congratulations to you in a spirit of sportsmanship. Now, Sir, after your elevation to this high office, you have become a non-party man and, therefore, it is expected of you that you will administer evenhanded justice to all Members of the House irrespective of their party affiliations. I hope you will treat the opposition on the same level as the party in power. With these words I again congratulate you, Sir, on your success.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (*Hindi*): Sir, this august House of this great land is now to function under your great and able leadership. You will, perhaps, remember that in 1917 when you started the struggle for Independence, I was only a child and a student of a school. I felt attracted towards you and to your movement of freedom for the country. Not only I, but also my brother, my niece, and my wife all took keen interest in your activities. They laid down their

lives at the altar of freedom for the country. I assure you of my fullest co-operation in your new sphere of duties and I would continue doing that with the same zeal with which the three members of my family sacrificed their all for the country at your behest. I have imbibed the same spirit which permeated these three members of my family and Mr. Speaker, I assure you that I would play my part honestly in the making of a 'New Punjab' for which this august House as well as the hon. Leader of the House have taken a pledge. I hope the hon. members of the Opposition will also extend their co-operation in the realisation of this pledge because they too have to achieve this very goal with the hon. members sitting on this side of the House. Mr. Speaker we are certain that you will see that fullest justice is done to every member of the House including the opposition party. I am sure the opposition also contains a large number of patriots who will not hesitate in extending their co-operation towards the making of the new Punjab.

I keenly desire that our great Leader who gave birth to the Freedom movement in the Punjab and others who worked under his leadership should see with their own eyes the emergence of the new Punjab. It needs no mention that Partition dealt a stunning blow to the economy of the Punjab but I hope that our Government will convert this land of ours into such a flourishing and prosperous State that our displaced brethren will forget the colonies of Montgomery and Lyallpur. Not only that the Hariana Districts will also receive supplies of water in such abundance that they will become granary of India. In the end, I would submit that just as you have served your country fearlessly and selflessly, similarly you will maintain, rather enhance the dignity of this House. I am sure, you will conduct the business of the House in such a manner that the members sitting opposite will co-operate with you wholeheartedly. I, therefore, extend my heartiest congratulations to you on your elevation to the high office.

Sardar Acchar Singh (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : I offer you, Mr. Speaker, my heartiest congratulations. Although the hon. Chief Minister has told the House that henceforth from the constitutional point of view you, no longer, belong to the Congress Party, yet, I would suggest that you may kindly remain above party politics in your actions. We have still to . . . (*interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker Party references are not allowed in the House.

Sardar Acchar Singh : I hope that you would allow equal opportunities both to the opposition and the government party. No doubt, the members in the opposition are very much in a minority, yet they have entered this House with a firm resolve to build a 'New Punjab'. The Congress Party might have got a fresh programme before it and it might, even, be following the same. ...

Mr. Speaker : No party references please.

Sardar Achhar Singh : I am not making any party reference. If I may be permitted to say only a short while ago party reference was made by an hon. Member but he was not asked to avoid it. Anyhow, if the references of this kind are contrary to the rules and procedure of the House, I welcome the ruling. Well, Sir, I am confident that you would liberally offer opportunities to the opposition to place its views and ideas before the House.

Mr. Speaker : I take full responsibility to accord equal rights and opportunities to everybody. I welcome every suggestion that has been made to me to administer full justice to everyone. I feel that enough has been said in this respect and enormous opportunities to this effect have yet to come in our way.

I am greatly indebted to the hon. Members of the House for the kind sentiments expressed by them. I express my sense of gratitude for the pains that you have taken to suggest to me a lot of things. Really, I feel, that your willingness to co-operate with me will help me a great deal in imparting full justice to the fullest possible extent. Once again, I feel thankful to you. You may rest assured that so far as I am concerned, I shall not give you any chance for a complaint (*Cheers*).

The help that the members of the opposition want me to give to them and the demands that they have put forward need no comment from me at this juncture. I feel that the promises at this time carry little value because many of the promises may not be fulfilled. I, therefore, request you to please wait and see as to how I guard their legitimate rights. (*Cheers*). From today onward, I shall be a

no-party-man. But even though I shall be a no-party-man, yet I am proud to be a Congressman. My head and heart are one and they carry the imprint of the Congress ideas and ideals, and due to my life long connections with the Congress they are ineffaceable (*Cheers*). While in the Assembly, I shall conform to all the high canons of constitutional procedure but I feel that I see no reason to changing my views, ideas and ideals. No man of principles and integrity would be able to shake off one's life's ideology, but, then I must say that while imparting justice and zealously safe guarding the rights, one must keep aside one's personal views and ideals. I want to assure you with all the emphasis at my command that during my term of Speakership I shall not tolerate any injustice being done to any hon. Member or group—whether occupying the Ministerial or the Opposition benches. The Opposition Members seem to be anxious to get promise from me. My only promise is that justice would not be wanting. I also wish to request the opposition members that they should also fulfil their obligations in an atmosphere of cordiality and in the higher interests of the masses they represent.

I expect, hon. Members, that you will all co-operate with me in maintaining the discipline and dignity that legitimately belong to this House. The eyes of the entire State are set on you—irrespective of the fact whether you adorn the treasury benches or constitute the ranks of the opposition. You are the representatives of the people and have entered upon your new career of legislators to alleviate the hardships and miseries of the common man. Differences in ideologies do exist but I need hardly say that the ideal, namely, to promote the welfare of your people is the same. The masses, outside, expect from all of us that their interests will not be ignored; and that their hardships will be removed. I request the hon. Members of the Ministerial party they should leave no nerve unstrained in telling the masses as to what they are going to do to redeem the confidence that the masses have reposed in their elected representatives. I also expect that the opposition members would not be lacking in their zeal to co-operate in building a “new and prosperous” Punjab—the cherished goal of us all.

I do not cross the limits of my expectations when I hope that all of you will extend the fullest measure of co-operation to me so that I may be able to discharge the responsible and arduous duties that have been entrusted to me by all of you. As regards myself, I being

[Mr Speaker]

assure you that I shall do my utmost to give no chance of complaint to any man or group—Ministerial or opposition—and that I will uphold Justice as an end in itself. I hope that while I am in this chair no one will have any ground for fear or suspicion (*cheers*).

Chief Minister: (The hon Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : I move that the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned till 10.00 a. m. on Friday the 9th May, 1952

Shri Dev Raj Anand : Does it mean that there will be no Address by the Governor ?

Mr. Speaker : His Excellency the Governor will Address The Legislature on the 6th as already intimated.

Now the question is:

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned till 10-00 a. m. on Friday the 9th May, 1952. The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Before we disperse I have to remind you that the Governor's Address is not postponed, as Shri Dev Raj Anand was asking. This motion has nothing to do with the Governor's address which will take place here in this Hall at 2-0 p. m. tomorrow. The members are requested to be in their seats ten minutes earlier. We have made this arrangement regarding seating because both the Houses are to meet here, that the Ministers and the lady-members of both the Houses will be occupying the front seats on my right while the remaining seats will be open and any Member coming first will occupy any seat he likes. There will be no marking of the seats for to-morrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-0 p.m. on Friday the 9th May, 1952

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

9th May, 1952

VOL. I—No. III.

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday 9th May, 1952

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a.m. of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (the hon. Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Dr. LEHNA SINGH TRUST

***1. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have constituted any trust to commemorate the memory of the late Dr. Lehna Singh, and to help his family ; if so, the nature of this trust, and the steps, if any, so far taken to give it a practical shape ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A fund, called the National Workers Relief Fund has been started to provide relief to political sufferers and their dependents in indigent circumstances. A sum of Rs. 250/- is sent every month to the widow of the late Dr. Sethi out of this fund.

2. Apart from this, Government have not created any separate Trust for relief to the dependents of the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know if the Government is aware that the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi died in harness as an hon. Minister of the State ?

Minister for Capital Project (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) : This information is a public property.

Shri Ram Kishan : Is the Government aware that the ex-Chief Minister Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava made an announcement that a Trust to the extent of Rs. 20,000/- will be constituted to help Dr. Lehna Singh's family and commemorate his memory ?

Minister : I am not aware of any such commitment made by him on behalf of the Government. If he did make any as a Leader of the Congress, then it is up to the Congress Organisation of the State to take up that matter.

JAGIRS AWARDED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

***3. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state the names of all the persons who were awarded Jagirs during the British regime in the State together with the value of each jagir ?

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : It is regretted that the time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know if the Government is aware that the Jagirs were awarded to Jagirdars during the British regime with a view to strengthening the British Imperialism ?

Mr. Speaker : No supplementary question is allowed as the hon. Minister has replied that the collection of information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH

***6. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Minister for Capital Project be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to expedite the construction of the Capital at Chandigarh ?

The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh : Government are exerting their utmost to expedite the construction of the New Capital at Chandigarh. Various steps taken in this direction are summarised below :—

- (a) *Collection of staff :* A strong administrative unit under a Chief Administrator has been set up, consisting of an Estate office, a Chief Engineer's branch, a Senior Architects office, and a land acquisition agency under an Additional Deputy Commissioner. Difficulty is being experienced in the recruitment of more technical staff both on the engineering and the architectural sides but it is hoped that these difficulties would be overcome in time.
- (b) *Acquisition of land :* 8356 acres of land have been acquired for the Capital site.

The oustees have been compensated by allotment of land and 7919 acres of land have been acquired elsewhere for compensation. Of these, possession of 7406 acres has been delivered to the oustees. Compensation for houses, crops and trees has been paid. The whole of the acquisition and resettlement work would be completed by the end of June, 1952.

- (c) *Collection of material* : One crore bricks, 1400 tons of steel, pipes and other material worth about 30 lakhs, sufficient for the construction during the current financial year have been collected and more have been ordered. Cement in requisite quantity is also available.
- (d) *Plans* : The lay-out plans of six sectors were completed and residential plots numbering 2387 in them have been sold. Lay out of a part of the Industrial Area was also finalised and 28 sites have been sold. Planning of other sectors is being pushed up with great speed.
- (e) *Construction : Buildings*. Temporary offices of the Chief Engineer Capital and residences for his staff have been constructed. The offices of the Chief Administrator and the Senior Architects, 1080 houses for Government servants of various categories costing Rs. 2250/- to Rs. 16000/- each, an Officers' Hostel and subsidiary buildings of the Government Printing Press are under construction.

Roads : Construction of main roads at an estimated cost of Rs. 22 lakhs was let out and the roads are under construction.

Water supply, drainage and sewerage. 5 tube wells yielding on an average 15,000 gallons per hour have been constructed. The distribution system of water supply, sewerage and drainage is also in hand.

- (f) *Designs*. Plans of High Court building have been prepared and estimates thereof are under preparation. The plans of the Secretariat, two Houses of the State Legislature, various types of schools, health centres and other category of residences for Government employees are in hand with the Architects.
- (g) *General* : The anticipated expenditure during the current financial year is Rs. 3.11 crore. The progress on the scheme is so far satisfactory and there is every reason to hope that the programme would be implemented according to the Five Year Plan.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell me as to when the High Court and the Civil Secretariat will be shifted to Chandigarh ?

Minister : They will be shifted, but not this year.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that the price charged by the Government for the plots is higher than the price paid to the owners who were ousted from those lands ? If so, is the Government keeping that amount with it or paying it to the previous owners of those lands ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the question. The hon. Member may ask a separate question on the subject.

Shri Ram Kishan : Is the Government aware that great difficulty is being experienced by the litigants in coming over to Simla to attend their cases in the High Court ?

Mr. Speaker : This supplementary does not arise out of the original question.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether there is any scheme for building a University Town at Chandigarh ?

Minister : So far as University education is concerned, the Government is fully alive to the question of helping the University in the construction of their buildings. But this is primarily for the University to decide as it is a semi-autonomous body.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : I think I remember it aright that in the reports on Education for the year 1947-48 and 1948-49, there was a proposal about the construction of a University Town

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is giving information instead of seeking it.

COMPENSATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS

***5 Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government have made any representation to the Government of India regarding compensation to be paid to displaced persons from West Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : The Punjab Government have not made any representation to the Government of India in the matter of payment of compensation to the Displaced Persons from West Punjab, as this question is being dealt with by the Government of India who are fully alive to the various aspects of the problem.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know whether the Government of India is aware that over 1/5th of the population of the Province consists of displaced persons ? Hence the Punjab Government as duty bound should represent to the Government of India regarding early settlement of compensation.

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry this is not a supplementary question.

CLOSING DOWN OF HOSPITALS IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

***4. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the names of those Refugee Camps in which Hospitals have been closed ?

The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh : Medical facilities have been withdrawn from the following Relief Camps with effect from the 31st March, 1952 :—

- (1) Jawahar Nagar Relief Camp, Ludhiana
- (2) Bhargava Relief Camp, Jullundur.
- (3) Baldev Nagar Relief Camp, Ambala.
- (4) Gandhi Nagar Relief Camp, Rohtak.
- (5) Canal Relief Camp, Karnal.
- (6) Railway Road Relief Camp, Gurgaon.
- (7) Relief Camp, Palwal, (District Gurgaon).

The above seven Camp Hospitals were closed on the 31st March, 1952 but with effect from the 1st May, 1952 out-door dispensaries are being opened in the mud-hut colonies at the following places :—

- (1) Jawahar Nagar Relief Camp, Ludhiana
- (2) Bhargava Relief Camp, Jullundur.
- (3) Baldev Nagar Relief Camp, Ambala.
- (4) Canal Relief Camp, Karnal.
- (5) Relief Camp, Gurgaon.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know, Sir, if the Punjab Government has received any instructions from the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India for closing down the hospitals in these Refugee camps ?

Minister : I am not aware of any instructions but the hon. Member's attention is invited to the second part of my reply, where I have said that outdoor dispensaries have been opened from 1st May, 1952, among the places that I have categorized Bhargava Relief Camp, Jullundur is included.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I know the reasons due to which these hospitals have been closed ?

Minister : It is the intention of the Government that the refugee brethren who live in the camps should get the same medical facilities as are ordinarily available to other citizens of the State in the towns. That is why these hospitals have been closed.

Shri Ram Kishan : Is it a fact that the Government promised sometime back that the hospital attached to a camp in which the number of the inmates was not less than ten thousand would not be closed ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is giving information.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Is it in the knowledge of the Government that the Railway Road Camp where the attached hospital has been closed, is at a distance of about one and a half miles from the other camps and the town ?

Minister : The hon. Member who hails from Gurgaon, can know better.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I know whether the Health Department or some other Department issued instructions for the closure of these hospitals ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the main question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the doctor-in-charge of the dispensary which has been opened in the Bhargava Camp will be acting as a whole-time doctor or a part-time one ?

Minister : The dispensary in that camp has been opened with effect from the first May, 1952. The doctor shall be on duty all the time the dispensary shall remain open.

Shrimati Sita Devi : For how many hours will the dispensary remain open every day ?

Minister : The timings of the dispensary will be the normal times of other ordinary dispensaries.

Shrimati Sita Devi : How can the dispensary meet the requirements of the people numbering ten thousand in just two or three hours ?

Mr. Speaker : This is an argument.

Shri Rala Ram : On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether an hon. Member can put more than three questions in a single day ?

Mr. Speaker : According to the Rules, an hon. Member can put six questions in a single day.

The list of starred questions for today has been exhausted. Let us now proceed with the next item on the Agenda.

An hon. Member : I want to submit, Sir, that the speeches are not clearly audible.

Mr. Speaker : We shall try to get a loudspeaker installed from tomorrow.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS.

1. **Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —
- (a) Whether any punitive police post was set up in village Bhangali, District Amritsar, in 1950 or 1951 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
 - (b) the total amount of collective fine realized for the upkeep of this post so far ;
 - (c) whether the Government has so far received any representation from the residents of the said village for the remission of this fine ; if so, the action that has been taken or is proposed to be taken by the Government thereon ;
 - (d) the number of places in other districts of the state where punitive police posts were set up in the years 1950 and 1951 together with the reasons therefor in each case ;
 - (e) the total amount of fines realised on this account in each of the district ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Yes, the area comprising this village being in a disturbed state and on account of the conduct of its inhabitants.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) No. Representations from certain residents were, however, received for exemption from payment of the tax and after due enquiry, 36 of them were exempted.

[Chief Minister]

(d & e) A statement is given below.

District	Number of places where punitive police posts were set up in 1950 and 1951	Reasons for location of posts.	Total amount realized
Hissar	2	The areas concerned being in a disturbed state and on account of the conduct of their inhabitants	Rs. a.p. 8366 8 0
Rohtak	6	do	38392 13 0
Gurgaon	2	do	...
Ludhiana	3	do	...
Ferozepore	7	do	6746 9 6
Gurdaspur	1	The area concerned being in a disturbed state and on account of the conduct of its inhabitants.	...

SHADOWING OF COMMUNISTS BY THE C.I.D. POLICE

2. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Comrade Sohan Singh Josh, M.L.C., and other communist leaders are being shadowed by the C. I. D., Police ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The reply is in the negative.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

3. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any schools have been closed in the Districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur during the years 1951-52 ; if so, the number of such Primary, Middle and High schools respectively ?

The hon. Shri Jagat Narain :

Amritsar District Nil

Hoshiarpur District One middle school, i. e. D. B. Middle School, Maini, which was handed over to the management of the local Khalsa Lohana High School.

Gurdaspur District One High School i.e. D.B. High School, Kalanaur. One Middle School i. e. D. B. Middle School, Sujanpur.

These schools have been closed by the District Board with effect from the 1st April, 1952 and handed over to the management of private bodies.

The D. A. V. High School at Wadala Bangar where another school existed and where there was no room for 2 schools was closed with effect from the 1st April, 1952 and reopened in the building of D.B. High School, Kalanaur.

DETENTION OF MLA's.

4. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any member of this House is detained under the Preventive Detention Act ; if so, their names, and the period for which each one of them has been under detention together with the grounds for detention in each case ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : No member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is in detention under the Preventive Detention Act.

DETENUS UNDER THE PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT.

5. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons detained under the Preventive Detention Act during the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and till 31st March 1952 ;

(b) the total number of persons detained at present :

[Sardar Chanan Singh]

(c) how long has each one of them been under detention ;

(d) whether the Government has considered the question of their release ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

MEMORANDA BY COMMUNIST DETENUS

6. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that the Communist detenus have from time to time submitted memoranda to the Government clearly stating their policy ;

(b) whether the Government has received the Memoranda submitted in March, 1952, by the Communist detenus confined in the Central Jail, Ambala ;

(c) what action, if any, has the Government taken or proposes to take thereon ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) These memoranda were put up before the Advisory Board, if they were not time-barred, whereas the remaining were duly considered by Government. In pursuance of their policy, Government have, however, released all the Communist detenus.

WARRANTS OF ARREST UNDER THE PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT.

7. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) whether any warrants of arrest under the Preventive Detention Act are pending execution against any person in this state ; if so the number of such warrants ;

(b) whether any such warrants are still pending against Comrades, Harkishan Singh Surjit, Secretary, Punjab Communist Party

Dalip Singh Tapiala, Master Hari Singh, ex-M.L.A., Bawa Gurmukh Singh, Avtar Singh Malhotra, V.D. Chopra, Des Raj Chadda and Satwant Singh Communists of the Punjab ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise, as it is included in (a).

ATTACHMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF POLITICAL WORKERS

8. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether property of any political worker in the state was attached and auctioned during the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and till March 31, 1952 ;

(b) the total number of cases in which properties were attached and auctioned, together with the value of the property in each case during each of the years mentioned in part (a) above ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

CASES LAUNCHED FOR ABSCONDING.

9. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a case was launched for absconding against S. Gian Singh of Village Moonak Kalan, Thana Urmar Tanda, District Hoshiarpur, after he was released from jail on the termination of the period of his detention ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

PROSECUTION OF DETENUS FOR BREACH OF JAIL DISCIPLINE.

10. **Sardar Chanan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any detenues have been or are being prosecuted for alleged breach of jail discipline in the state;
- (b) the number of cases that have been launched against detenues for hunger strike and for rioting inside jail in the state;
- (c) the total number of detenues who have been convicted for hunger-strike in jails in the State;
- (d) the number of detenues who have been convicted for rioting inside jails in the State;
- (e) whether the Government propose to withdraw such cases as are still pending; if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 100 for hunger strike and 39 for rioting.
- (c) 35
- (d) 32
- (e) First part : No.

Second part : For administrative reasons.

HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY DETENUS.

11. **Sardar Chanan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that—

- (a) detenues are confined in jails in the state away from their home districts which results in great hardship to them specially in the denial of the right of interviews with relatives for long periods;
- (b) the detenues are forced to sleep inside the barracks even in summer;
- (c) the detenues are locked up from sunset to sunrise and for 2 hours during the day (from 12 noon to 2 P.M.) i.e. for 16 hours out of 24 hours;
- (d) they are searched daily and are forced to give parades to jail officials?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Detenus are kept in jails, where special arrangements for their confinement exist. Government are not aware of any "great" hardship having been caused to relations of detenus in the matter of interviews.
- (b) Yes, because the concession of sleeping in the open, originally allowed to them, was abused as some detenus escaped by digging a tunnel. To reduce the inconvenience of sleeping indoors during summer, Government have provided ceiling fans in their barracks.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) They are liable to be searched not less than once a week and oftener if the Superintendent Jail considers it necessary.

PAY GRADE OF PATWARIS.

12. Sardar Chanan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Punjab Patwaris union has from time to time submitted memoranda to the Government demanding that the Patwari's grade of pay be fixed at par with that of the Junior Clerk's in Deputy Commissioners Offices;
- (b) What steps, if any, has the Government taken or contemplates taking in this matter ?

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The demand was carefully examined and the scale of Patwaris was revised from Rs. 25-1-30/1-45 to 30-1-40/1-50 per mensem with effect from 1-8-1949 and their posts made permanent. In view of the financial stringency in the State it was not possible to further increase the pay of Patwaris.

ALLOWANCES TO QANUNGOS.

13. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Punjab Qanungos Consolidation Union has from time to time submitted Memoranda to the Government demanding a horse allowance and the fixation of travelling and consolidation allowances etc;
- (b) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :—

- (a) Memoranda have been received from the Kanungos asking for the grant of fixed travelling allowance (horse allowance) and special pay to Qanungos employed on Consolidation work.
- (b) The matter is under consideration.

PRISONERS CONVICTED BEFORE THE PARTITION.

14. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of prisoners convicted before the partition of the country, who are still in the jails of the State and the reasons of their not having been released so far?.

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: The number of such prisoners is 245. The reason for their not having been released so far is that they have not yet completed their terms of imprisonment.

EJECTION OF TENANTS.

15. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of tenants ejected by the landlords during the period, October, 1951 to March, 1952 in the State together with the reasons of ejection in each case.
- (b) what step, if any, do the Government propose to take to protect the tenants against such ejections?

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) The information will be available after the 15th June, 1952 as actual ejectments of tenants are generally affected between the 1st May and 15th June.
- (b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT VILLAGE CHURCHAK, DHUDIKE, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE.

31. Sardar Nidhan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that punitive police was posted during the years 1939 to 15th August, 1947 at village Churchak and Dhudike, P. S. Mehna, Tehsil Moga, District Ferozepore on account of the nationalistic sympathies of people belonging to these villages ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a sum of Rupees 1,04,000/- was realized in the form of punitive tax from the residents of the villages mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (c) whether the Government propose to return the above mentioned amount to the persons from whom it was realised ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) I am aware of the fact that punitive police was posted during the year 1939 to 15th August, 1947 at villages Chuhar Chak and Dhudike. It was posted not on account of the 'nationalistic sympathies, of the people but on account of the disturbed condition of these villages and the conduct of their inhabitants.
- (b) A sum of Rs. 1,03,888 was realised.
- (c) No, the additional police was posted at the cost of the inhabitants for the reasons given in part (a) above, and those reasons do not justify refund of the money.

**PUNITIVE POLICE AT VILLAGES CHURCHAK, DHUDIKE AND
AJITWAL.**

32. Sardar Nidhan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punitive Police was posted at villages Chur Chak, Dhudike and Ajitwal after its being declared a disturbed area on 1st September, 1950 ;
- (b) the reasons for its being declared a disturbed area ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Punitive Police made a forced entry into the house of one comrade Jaswant Singh, relieved his family of their possession and occupied the house ;
- (d) whether any compensation or rent was paid by the Government for the period the punitive police was in occupation of that house ; if not, the reasons thereof ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 15,400/— was levied as punitive tax on the residents of the above mentioned villages ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the punitive police was removed before time from the above mentioned villages ;
- (g) whether Government propose to remit the sum of Rs. 15,400/- to the residents of the above villages ; if not, why not ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The area was declared disturbed because it was found to be in such a state, created by the activities of its inhabitants.
- (c) No ; the Police occupied the house in question by lawful means.
- (d) No ; the house being a property confiscated by Government, the question of payment of any compensation of rent by Government did not arise.
- (e) No ; a sum of Rs. 15,540/- was levied.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) No ; the police post was located as a punitive measure on account of the disturbed condition of these villages and conduct of their inhabitants.

ALLEGED FORCIBLE POSSESSION OF COMMON LAND IN VILLAGE
ROTAN, DISTRICT FEROZEPUR.

33. **Sardar Nidhan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bhai Arjan Singh Bagarian has taken forcible possession of 290 bighas of common land in village Rotan, Thana Nihal Singh Wala, Tehsil Moga, District Ferozepore ;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: The reply to this question is not yet ready, it will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

EJECTION OF TENANTS SETTLED IN FEROZEPUR DISTRICT

34. **Sardar Nidhan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of families of the local and the Refugee tenants settled in the Ferozepur District ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Jagirdars are ejecting these tenants by bringing tractors into operation ; if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the tenants ;
- (c) the total number of tenants ejected in the Ferozepur district since April, 1950 ;
- (d) the number of tenants ejected in the Ferozepur District after the promulgation of the Punjab Tenants (Security of Tenure) Ordinance ?

The hon Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) It is regretted that it is very difficult to collect figures
- (b) Tractors are not the instruments by which the tenants are being ejected. These are used for cultivation by the landlords for tilling the land, which is permissible under the Punjab Tenant's (Security of Tenure) Act.
- (c) Approximately 467, but I take it that this figure is not correct for many other ejectments have taken place without resorting to law courts.
- (d) Approximately 467 according to local officers but I doubt if this figure is correct

EJECTMENT OF TENANTS IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT

35. Sardar Nidhan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he is aware of the fact that the local tenants of Nawab Mamdot, Thana Jalalabad, Tehsil Muktsar have been settled on the lands and in the houses on the Estate for the last one hundred years ;
- (b) Whether he is also aware of the fact that the land belonging to the estate has now been allotted to small land-holders resulting in the ejectment of tenants ;
- (c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the steps which the Government propose to take to stop the ejectment of tenants ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) Government is aware of the fact that some of the local tenants of Nawab Mamdot are settled on the land and houses since a number of years, but the exact period for which they have been settled is not readily available.
- (b) No. On the contrary Government took all possible steps in time to assure itself that the land of Mamdot Estate was allotted to large holders, who were not likely to cultivate themselves, but were likely to continue to employ tenants for cultivating their lands. All allottees, who were entitled to less than 25 standard acres of land were moved from these villages and their allotments were given to persons who were entitled to more than 60 standard acres.
- (c) In view of what has been stated in (b) above, this does not arise.

DAMAGE TO RABI CROPS DUE TO HAIL STORM

36. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether Government is aware of the fact that Rabi Crop of villages Kakri, Kapura Chagawan, Bugipur and Dala, thana Mehna, Tehsil Moga, was totally damaged due to hail storm on 22. 2. 1952 ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh. There was a slight hail storm on 22nd February, 1952 but no damage was caused. No complaints were received from Zamindars concerned.

OPENING OF MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN VILLAGE PATTO
HIRA SINGH, DISTRICT FEROZEPUR

37. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 25,000/- and a piece of land was donated by the residents of village Patto Hira Singh, Police Station Nihal Singh Wala, Tehsil Moga. District Ferozepur for the opening of a War Memorial Maternity Hospital in the village ;
- (b) when the Government proposes to build the hospital, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The question of recovery from the Punjab (Pakistan) of the sum of Rs. 25,000 (donated by S. B. Captain Hira Singh and the residents of Patto Hira Singh and surrounding villages), which was credited in the Joint Punjab accounts, is under the consideration of the Punjab Implementation Committee. As soon as a decision is reached in the matter, necessary steps will be taken by the State Government for the opening of the proposed Maternity Hospital in village Patto Hira Singh, in the Ferozepore District.

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT BHUCHO MANDI.

38. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punitive Police has been posted in Bhucho Mandi for seven villages i.e. Chak Ram Singh, Chak Fateh Singh, Chak Bakhtu, Kahan Singh Wala, Tungwali, Bega, and Bhucho Kalan, since October, 1951 and that a sum of Rs. 16,040/- has been levied on the residents of these villages for the year 1951 ;
- (b) the reasons for continuing the post and burdening the residents of these villages with unnecessary expenditure when the reasons for its posting no longer exist ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Yes. since November, 1950 and not October, 1951. From 1st November, 1951 village Chak Bakhtu was excluded from this Post and villages Bhucho Mandi and Lehra Mahahbat included therein. A sum of Rs. 16,240 has been levied on the residents of the villages concerned for the 1st year from 11th November, 1950 to 31st October, 1951 ;
- (b) The disturbed condition of the area concerned and the conduct of its inhabitants. The reasons for location of the Additional Police Post still exist.

LAND OWNERS IN THE STATE

16. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of land-owners in the State, owning land between.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----|----------------|
| (i) | 1 | to | 15 acres |
| (ii) | 16 | to | 30 acres |
| (iii) | 31 | to | 50 acres |
| (iv) | 51 | to | 70 acres |
| (v) | 71 | to | 90 acres |
| (vi) | 91 | to | 110 acres |
| (vii) | 111 | to | 150 acres |
| (viii) | 151 | to | 200 acres |
| (ix) | 201 | to | 300 acres |
| (x) | 301 | to | 400 acres |
| (xi) | 401 | to | 500 acres |
| (xii) | 501 | to | 700 acres |
| (xiii) | 701 | to | 1000 acres |
| (xiv) | 1001 | to | 1500 acres |
| (xv) | 1501 | to | 2000 acres |
| (xvi) | 2001 | to | 3000 acres |
| (xvii) | 3001 | to | 4000 acres and |
| (xviii) | more than 4000 acres respectively ? | | |

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The Land Reforms Committee collected data not of the same category as asked for in the question but much more exhaustive information is being supplied in the statement given below.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF LAND OWNERS

Serial No.	Name of District	Total No. of land owners	Owning 5 acres or less	Owning more than 5 acres but less than 10 acres	Owning more than 10 acres but less than 20 acres	Owning more than 20 acres but less than 30 acres
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Hissar ...	1,68,832	58,714	35,010	28,004	17,915
2	Rohtak ...	1,58,071	69,861	27,428	34,277	10,722
3	Gurgaon ...	3,61,826	2,06,332	77,376	45,014	19,428
4	Karnal ...	1,56,807	59,418	40,971	24,069	15,675
5	Ambala ...	1,72,188	1,07,380	35,975	17,910	6,106
6	Simla —	...	...	—	...	...
7	Kangra ...	4,24,169	2,87,200	1,02,836	20,342	13,500
8	Hoshiarpur ...	1,67,225	1,13,050	27,565	14,396	6,209
9	Jullundur ...	1,35,301	1,01,143	23,627	7,595	2,164
10	Ludhiana ...	1,82,751	58,387	71,381	41,135	9,434
11	Ferozepore —	78,650	37,532	19,459	11,160	5,667
12	Amritsar ...	4,23,562	2,32,908	97,920	49,378	24,266
13	Gurdaspur ...	1,43,918	86,276	28,702	14,372	7,584
	Grand Total ...	25,73,300	14,18,221	5,86,250	3,07,652	1,38,663

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OWNING DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF LAND IN THE PUNJAB

Owning more than 30 acres but less than 50 acres	Owning more than 50 acres but less than 75 acres	Owning more than 75 acres but less than 100 acres	Owning more than 100 acres but less than 150 acres	Owning more than 150 acres but less than 200 acres	Owning more than 200 acres but less than 250 acres	Owning more than 250 acres
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13,246	6,942	4,037	2,200	1,016	579	1,166
9,151	3,553	2,861	137	31	10	20
8,655	2,952	932	468	238	72	248
9,582	4,340	1,619	650	229	140	106
3,025	1,076	394	163	50	41	78
...
10,540	5,231	670	223	82	18	23
3,332	1,450	724	346	69	33	51
564	110	49	25	7	4	6
1,047	631	427	216	59	14	30
2,698	1,047	463	284	141	114	85
11,964	4,690	1,448	532	246	96	112
4,619	1,997	656	976	55	109	77
78,424	34,019	14,270	6,223	2,228	1,232	2,002

PAY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

17. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the number of Government servants in the State drawing monthly salaries, between

	Rs.		Rs.
(i)	40	to	50
(ii)	51	to	60
(iii)	61	to	70
(iv)	71	to	90
(v)	91	to	100
(vi)	101	to	150
(vii)	151	to	200
(viii)	201	to	250
(ix)	251	to	300
(x)	301	to	400
(xi)	401	to	500
(xii)	501	to	700
(xiii)	701	to	900
(xiv)	901	to	1200
(xv)	1201	to	1500
(xvi)	1501	to	2000
(xvii)	2001	to	2500
(xviii)	2501	to	3000 and
(xix)	more than 4000 respectively,		

(b) the total monthly emoluments of a Government Servant getting Rs. 100 or less as basic salary per mensem ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : As the time and expenditure to be spent in collecting the information asked for will be too great, it will not be commensurate with the advantage likely to accrue from it.

DETENUS

18. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) the total number of persons detained on political grounds in the State at present ;
- (b) the number of political workers against whom warrants of arrest have been issued ;
- (c) the number of political detenus who are being paid family allowance ; together with the rates of each allowance ;
- (d) the reasons for not paying family allowances to all the political detenus having families ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) None.
- (b) None.
- (c) Does not arise now.
- (d) Does not arise.

DETENUS AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS

19. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of detenus and other political prisoners in the Jails of the State and the number of Communists among them ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Total number of detenus on 15th June 1952. These include 22 harbourers of criminals and 2 suspected spies. There is no political or communist detenu in the State.

ALLEGED RE-ARREST OF DETENUS IN JAILS

20. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of such detenus who were ordered to be released and then immediately re-arrested inside the jail and detained on the same grounds as before during the year 1951-52 ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to hon. Member when ready.

DETENUS AGAINST WHOM PROSECUTION IN COURTS FAILED

21. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of detenus against whom prosecutions in Courts failed and who were placed under detention ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : No detenu was detained because prosecution against him failed in court. There were however five detenus who happened to get detained after the failure of prosecution but their detention was due to other causes.

DETENUS IN POLICE LOCK-UPS

22. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that political detenus are kept in Police Lock-Ups for as long as three months ?.

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Although there is no legal bar to keeping detenus in a police lock-up, yet such detenus are sent to judicial custody as soon as possible. And, it is in very rare cases that detenus have been kept in a police lock-up for as long as three months.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO DETENUS

23. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of detenus in the State who are getting the family allowance ;
- (b) the standard followed for the grant of such allowance ;
- (c) the number of the detenus who have so far applied for the family allowance ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) None.
- (b) The maximum standard followed for the grant of family allowance is Rs. 25/-/- p.m. per woman dependent and Rs. 20/-/- p.m. per minor dependent subject to 20% increase per capita for the dependents living in urban areas. The financial position of the Detenu is kept in view while deciding the grant of such an allowance.
- (c) 155.

DETENUS ON PAROLE.

24. **Sardar Achhar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of detenus released on parole since 31st March, 1951, together with the number of those detenus who applied for parole during this period ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

First part.	Six.
Second part.	22.

MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR DETENUS.

25. **Sardar Achhar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of detenus during the period 1950-52 who applied for special medical treatment together with the number of those who were given such medical treatment ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : It is regretted the answer to the question is not yet ready. The information is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it is ready.

INTERVIEW WITH DETENUS

26. **Sardar Achhar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) whether it is a fact that Communist detenus are allowed to interview their friends or relatives only in the presence of a C.I.D. officer ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that near relatives such as maternal uncle, aunt, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grand mother, and grand father etc., are not allowed to interview these detenus ;
- (c) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No. Uncles and aunts can interview with the permission of the Superintendent of the Jail and the rest with the permission of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (C.I.D.) Punjab.
- (c) For administrative reasons in so far as part (a) of the question is concerned. The point does not arise so far as part (b) is concerned.

SUPPLY OF PERIODICALS TO DETENUS

27. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the registered periodicals e.g. the Cross Road, the Parwana the Nai Jamhooriyat, the Lal Sawera, the Phulwari, and the Preet Lari are not being supplied to the detenus ; if so, why ?.

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The periodicals mentioned in the Assembly Question were not being supplied to the detenus, as these are not borne on the approved list of periodicals and magazines which are supplied to detenus confined in the Punjab Jails at Government expense or their own.

ALLEGED LATHI CHARGES ON DETENUS

28. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) the number of times the detenus and other political prisoners have been subjected to Lathi Charges in Punjab Jails during the period 1948-51 ;
- (b) whether any non-official enquiry was ever conducted in this connection ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Twice.
- (b) No.

PROSECUTIONS FOR HUNGER STRIKE BY DETENUS

29. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of detenus against whom prosecutions were started for going on hunger-strike during the year 1950-51 ;
- (b) the number of those among them who were convicted on this account ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) 100
- (b) 85

PUNISHMENT AWARDED TO DETENUS IN JAILS

30. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some detenus in Punjab Jails were awarded such punishments as cell confinement and reduction of food allowances ; if so-why ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes. Some detenus in Camp Jail, Yol were awarded solitary confinement for creating disturbance and using violence towards jail officers.

In spite of the fact that all their reasonable demands had been conceded by Government and they were being treated much more generously than Communist detenus in many other States, Communist detenus in other jails also resumed hunger-strike, assaulted jail staff and otherwise misbehaved in the months of January to March, 1950 and Government had to withdraw certain concessions in the interest of discipline and order in the jails. A personal warning was given to the strikers by the Superintendents of Jails that if they persisted in the strike the special concessions would be withdrawn. It was only in respect of those who persisted in the strike, even after warning, that certain newly granted concessions were withdrawn.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Secretary : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor on the 6th May, 1952 to both Houses assembled together.

ADDRESS

Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council

We witness to-day a significant landmark in the progress of democracy. You, my friends, have the unique distinction of being the members of the first Legislature of the state following the first General Elections held under the Constitution of India. This is also the first occasion when both Houses of the Legislature have assembled together. I summoned the Legislature as early as possible after its constitution in order that the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council should elect their Presiding Officers. I felicitate you, Mr. Speaker, and you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to your respective high offices. May I, at the same time, extend to all of you, both individually and collectively, my hearty greetings and good wishes and may I be permitted to say how happy I feel at the restoration of the Constitution in our State with a Council of Ministers once again at the helm of affairs.

The General Elections based on adult franchise were a colossal undertaking, involving the setting up of 7,000 Polling Stations to enable about 7 000,000 voters to cast their votes. This was the biggest election in the Punjab, and for India the largest in the world. It is a matter of great satisfaction to all of us that the elections passed off peacefully and that, contrary to apprehensions, there was hardly any disorder or breach of the peace. The electorate was generally able to exercise the right of franchise without let or hindrance. The remarkable smoothness with which elections were conducted is a good augury for the future of democracy in India. It is, more over, a tribute not only to the energy, efficiency and impartiality of the vast official machinery engaged on the work, but also to the good sense of our people, and may I say here that, like many observers, I was greatly struck by the keenness, composure and dignity of our electorate, both men and women, at Polling Booths.

Elections to local bodies in the State have not been held for almost a decade, while in some of them they were held as many as 16 years ago. My Government are anxious that these elections should be held as soon as possible, and have taken steps to ensure that they are completed before the end of this year.

The prevailing scarcity in the Hissar District was one of the first tasks, which engaged the attention of my Government when they assumed office in the third week of April. All possible steps have been taken to meet the situation. Employment has been provided on canal digging, road works, digging of village ponds and through the opening of cotton and woollen spinning centres. The members of the Legislature will be interested to know that a great deal of work on the digging of canals is being undertaken by village co-operatives, thus eliminating the contractor, reducing cost and enlisting the active interest of the people in works undertaken for their welfare. A hundred additional food depots have also been established, thus making foodgrains easily available. Measures to protect and preserve the cattle wealth of the district include import of fodder at concessional rates, grant of taccavi for fodder, the maintenance of stud bulls and a decision taken by my Government about two weeks ago to open 8 concentration camps where about 5,000 useful cattle will be fed and looked after by the State. The import of fodder into Hissar, particularly from other States, has been attended by many difficulties, but my Government are in continuous touch with the Government of India over this very important matter and are doing all that is possible to accelerate the pace of import of fodder. Taccavi will also be given for purchase of seed and bullocks at sowing time. There is acute shortage of water in village ponds in the affected areas, and these are being filled up once again with

canal water. My Chief Minister and two of his colleagues have already visited the Hissar District. While my Government will do everything that is feasible to alleviate hardship and suffering, I am confident that the people of our State will also come forward to help. It is indeed gratifying that following the visit of my Hon'ble Ministers to Hissar and their appeals for help, offers of assistance in the form of cash, fodder and voluntary service have been received. I trust that such help will be forthcoming on a larger scale. My Government will continue to watch the whole situation from day to day with a view not only to ensure the prompt and satisfactory implementation of the decisions already taken, but also to see whether any further measures are called for.

Our State felt greatly honoured and delighted by the visit of the Prime Minister of India to the sites of our main Projects— Bhakra and Nangal and Chandigarh. He was impressed with the magnitude of these undertakings, in particular the Bhakra-Nangal Project, which is the greatest multi-purpose project in India. The Dam in this project will be 680 feet high, the second largest in the world. Its length will be 1,700 feet at road level, double the volume of the seven Great Pyramids of Egypt. It will impound 7,400,000 acre feet of water, and the lake will spread over an area of 38,000 acres. The project, when completed, will be capable of providing irrigation facilities to about 6,500,000 acres of land, apart from eventually generating 400,000 K.W. of electric power. This power will be supplied not only to about 75 towns of the Punjab and also Delhi, but will be available on a large scale in rural areas for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses. Irrigation from Bhakra is expected to increase the annual production of foodgrains by about 1.13 million tons and that of cotton and other fibres by about 800,000 bales. The foreign exchange involved at present in importing these amounts is of the order of about Rs. 105 crores, the bulk of which it would be possible to save.

Work both on Bhakra and Nangal is progressing fairly satisfactorily. The road bridge over Nangal Dam was opened in September last, and the concreting of this Dam is nearly complete. As regards Bhakra, according to the present schedule, the work on the diversion tunnels is expected to be completed by the end of 1953. Difficulties have been experienced in connection with the finalization of the design and specifications for the construction equipment for Bhakra Dam, and the procurement of equipment from abroad is not an easy matter, but we hope that it will be possible to start the concreting of the Dam in January, 1956, and to complete it before the end of 1959. Perennial irrigation, however, can commence a year earlier, as it will be possible to store water before the completion of the Dam. This, in brief, is the present schedule, but my Government and the Bhakra Control Board spent several hours last week in deliberating with Mr. Slocum, perhaps the

[Governor's Address]

greatest expert in the construction of high dams, whom we have engaged for this project with a view to see whether it was possible to advance the schedule. We have reached certain conclusions, and if these can be implemented fully and in time—and the implementation of some of them, like engagement of specialists and procurement of plant and equipment, are not wholly within our control—we have been advised that the Dam can be completed by approximately October, 1958, and that it would be feasible to obtain partial use of stored waters by the end of 1956 and practically full use by the end of 1957. My Government and the Bhakra Control Board will leave no stone unturned to remove bottle-necks or handicaps in connection with this project.

A start in irrigation from the Bhakra canals was made during Kharif 1951, the area irrigated being 15,000 acres. The figure during this year's Kharif will be considerably higher. I should add that subject to availability of funds, the Bhakra Canals System is scheduled to be completed by Kharif 1954. Individual channels will, however, be opened earlier as and when they are completed, thus making it possible progressively to increase non-perennial irrigation from Bhakra canals.

My Government is fully seized of the fundamental necessity of planning for the full utilization of power and water from the Bhakra-Nangal project. Comprehensive load surveys are being carried out, and the Electricity Tariff Advisory Committee, which was constituted last year, has begun its work. The Committee which was appointed last year to suggest ways and means for ensuring, as far as may be, the optimum utilization of water for irrigation from the Bhakra-Nangal project, has also started its deliberations.

The campaign for increased food production continues to make headway. The main planks in the campaign are expansion of irrigation by canals, tubewells, percolation wells or other minor irrigation schemes, use of pure seed, utilization of manure, eradication of pests and reclamation of waste lands. During the current financial year it is proposed to spend a little over Rs. 120 lakhs on loan schemes and a little over Rs. 19½ lakhs on grant-in-aid schemes. My Government will shortly proceed to examine how the drive for increased food production can be accelerated, with special reference to the improvement of the operation of the Utilization of Lands Act, electrification of tubewells in rural areas and the devising of measures for the closest and most continuous association of all our rural citizens in the task of augmenting food production. As Members of the Legislature are

aware, four Rural Community Projects have been allotted to this State. Various details, as for example, financial and administrative, are being worked out, and when these projects are on the ground, increased food production in these areas will be a part of an integrated plan of all-round rural development.

In spite of the unkindness of Nature last year, viz, inadequate rainfall, followed by drought in some areas, our food position on the whole remained satisfactory. We were able to procure 245,000 tons of wheat during the crop year, which has just ended. As a measure of precaution, we had obtained an allocation of 60,000 tons of imported wheat from the Government of India but subsequently, due to improved conditions and, in particular, good procurement of maize, we surrendered 20,000 tons out of our allocation. We may be in a position to surrender some more imported wheat. In spite of the import of wheat, which is more expensive than locally procured wheat, we were able to maintain the issue of wheat at a stable level, and our consumers may well congratulate themselves on this. The wheat crop is reported to be very good this year, and it is our hope to be able to exceed the procurement of last year, and also, perhaps, to manage without imports of wheat.

In the sphere of relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Punjab, quasi-permanent allotment of evacuee land was completed in 1950, but as was inevitable in such a gigantic task, a large number of errors and omissions occurred which it was necessary to set right. Over a lakh of applications for review and revision were received. Their disposal involved much labour, as records had to be collected from the districts and examined carefully. Most of these applications have since been disposed of and the remainder are being dealt with. It is well-known that land available for allotment under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme was not sufficient to meet the demand, but by utilizing the land of which possession was not taken by the allottees and by other processes, the Government were able up to the 15th April, 1952, to allocate as much as 64,366 standard acres of land to 12,959 unsatisfied claimants. This has met the claims of the bulk of the claimants, thus considerably reducing the number of displaced persons for whom land is still to be found. With the completion of the more important stages of quasi-permanent allotment of land, it was necessary to give further financial aid to the allottees to enable them to resettle themselves on their new holdings, and to improve these holdings, to the extent possible. For this purpose, a total amount of Rs. 4.4 crores has been advanced in the form of loans for the purchase of bullocks, implements, tractors, pumping sets and other agricultural requirements.

As regards urban rehabilitation, further progress has been made since my last address to the Legislative Assembly on the 6th March, 1951. Schemes for the creation of shopping centres and mandis and industrial areas for displaced persons are actively in hand. Loans totalling Rs. 74,00,000 have been given to the purchasers of plots in the townships for building houses. Two thousand and five hundred cheap houses for the lower income groups have now been completed on eight-marla plots. Moreover, small urban loans amounting to a little over Rs. 2 crores have been advanced, besides loans of over Rs. 40,00,000 to co-operative societies. Twenty-seven co-operative societies have been formed for the establishment of garden colonies in the State and a sum of Rs. 10,00,000 has been advanced to these societies.

With the object of giving compensation to displaced persons, who had to abandon immovable properties in urban areas in Punjab (P), the Government of India initiated the twin schemes of verifying the claims of displaced persons in respect of immovable property left behind by them and of evaluating the evacuee property left by evacuees in India. Both these schemes have made considerable progress.

Relief to displaced persons, as distinguished from their rehabilitation, is now nearing its end. The State Government are considering a scheme for the transfer of ownership of mud-huts to their occupants according to which only the cost of land will be recovered from the displaced persons on easy terms.

My Government have been very anxious to speed up the construction of the new Capital at Chandigarh, both from the point of view of administrative convenience and of rehabilitating displaced persons. A great deal of preliminary work relating to acquisition of land and planning has already been done. The work of awarding compensation for the land acquired and the resettlement of Capital oustees is nearing completion. A network of main roads has already been laid at the site. Five hundred and eighty-six permanent houses for the staff are under construction, and construction work for 496 more has just started. A Hostel for officers and a building for the Government Press are also under construction. Twenty-eight industrial plots have been auctioned, and 2,387 residential plots have been allotted. In the matter of allotment of residential plots, preference has been given to displaced persons. In construction work also, every effort is being made to employ as many displaced persons as possible. It is my Government's desire to move the Capital to Chandigarh as early as possible. If a permanent full-scale move cannot take place in the near future, the possibility of a partial temporary move in the next winter will have to be examined.

The future of our State and indeed of the whole country will depend on the manner in which we are able to develop and utilize our resources. As you know, the Government of India set up a Planning Commission about two years ago and asked the State Governments to formulate their plans. My Government have prepared a plan involving an expenditure of Rs. 21.67 crores spread over a period of 5 years. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 10 crores will be spent on the Capital Project, Rs. 169.72 lakhs on the development and improvement of agriculture, Rs. 326.22 lakhs on irrigation, Rs. 188 lakhs on consolidation of holdings and the balance on schemes embracing education, medical, public health and industries, etc. The Planning Commission, which has already issued a draft report, is expected to publish its final report some time this year.

The speed of consolidation work remained somewhat slow in the beginning of 1951-52, as the staff was untrained, but I am glad to say that the speed became more rapid towards the close of the year. There are 1,783 villages under consolidation with an area of 2,063,548 acres in the first batch of selected tahsils. The work in all these villages is expected to be finished by the end of the current financial year, and it is expected that consolidation operations would be taken up in the second batch of tahsils in the State with effect from the 1st April, 1953. According to the scheduled programme, the work throughout the State should be completed in about eight years' time, but my Government propose to take steps to expedite the work so as to reduce this period to the extent possible. Side by side with the work in the first batch of selected tahsils, the work in 382 villages with an area of 239,329 acres in non-selected tahsils continued and has almost been completed.

In order effectively to deal with problems relating to industrial rehabilitation and development, the Industries Department has been recently overhauled both at headquarters and in the field. Two advisory committees, viz., the Standing Advisory Committee for Industries and the Cottage Industries Board, have also been established, and there is now a close and effective liaison between industrialists and Government. The Stores Purchase Organization has been materially strengthened and shifted from Kalka to Jullundur. The Department has also been able to start a School of Arts which was a long-felt want after partition. Proposals are under examination for the starting of a commercial tannery at Jullundur, a testing and finishing centre for cycle parts and allied industries at Ludhiana and a dyeing and finishing centre for cotton textiles and hosiery goods at Ludhiana. My Government are alive to the need for the extension of cottage industries, which will provide additional employment to people in rural areas. To give

further impetus to private enterprise and industry in this border State, my Government have drawn up a detailed scheme for the setting up of an Industrial Finance Corporation, and the case has now to be negotiated with the Centre. The corporation when set up, will be able to provide effective financial assistance to small and medium-scale industries in the form of long-term loans.

The question of nationalization of passenger transport has been under consideration for some time past. The Punjab Legislative Assembly, however, recommended in March, 1950, that it should be postponed for three years, subject to Government's taking up a few routes as an experimental measure. The routes selected were Jullundur-Amritsar and Ambala-Karnal along with a few subsidiary routes and the running of the Omnibus Service in Ambala. Judging from the results achieved, the experiment has proved to be a success. It is now my Government's intention to accelerate the pace of nationalization.

Primary Education in the State is still governed by an Act of 1919, which has, more or less, outlived its utility, and an Act of 1940, which has remained a dead letter. The question of fresh legislation in order to speed up the process of compulsory education and to extend it to areas not so far within its reach, is exercising the minds of my Hon'ble Ministers. The State Government had sometime back evolved a scheme of studies for primary and middle departments of the schools of the State. This scheme included, among other matters, the progressive nationalization of school text-books. Under this scheme, 23 text books are being printed by Government. My Government propose to speed up this policy of progressive nationalization, so as to nationalize all text-books within the shortest period of time.

My Government are very anxious to secure the close and intimate association of the people themselves with all development plans that may be undertaken in rural and urban areas. Our fellow citizens may well not feel the full glow of freedom unless they have a hand in the shaping of their future and their environment. One of the ways of making them do this may be to decentralize administrative machinery to the extent possible and to give powers to Panchayats in villages or to groups of villages and to local bodies in urban areas. My Hon'ble Ministers have been giving thought to this problem and may be able to formulate specific proposals by the time the Legislature meets next. They are anxious to do all that they can to better the lot of the common man in towns and villages of the State.

Important and far-reaching steps have been taken to improve the condition of tenants. The Punjab Tenants (Security of Tenure) Amendment Act, 1951, has reduced the permissible limit up to which a land-owner may reserve land for self-cultivation from 100 to 50 standard acres. The tenure of tenancy has also been raised from 4 to 5 years. The tenant has been given the right of pre-empting the sale of land in his tenancy if it has been in his continuous possession for 4 years and also the right of purchase if it has been in his continuous possession for 12 years. The maximum rent, which a landlord may claim, has been fixed at 1/3rd of the crop of such land. The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1951, abolishes proprietary rights of land-owners in respect of lands under their occupancy tenants and vests this right in the occupancy tenants on payment of compensation to be determined under the Act. The interests of tenants are nearest to the heart of my Government and the need for safeguarding those interests cannot be over-emphasized. It is incumbent on all of us to move with the times, and I have every hope that such adjustment of relations as may be necessary, will be undertaken and carried out by all concerned with the least possible dislocation. While I would make an appeal, particularly to the landlords, for a proper appreciation and understanding of the policies and principles underlying agrarian reform and such reform should be brought about as far as possible in a spirit of amity and goodwill—I would add that under no circumstances will my Government permit any violation or circumvention of the law.

The Punjab Abolition of *Ala Malkiat* and Talukdari Rights Act 1951, abolishes all rights, titles, etc., of *Ala Malkiat* on the land held by them through *Adna Malik* and vests full proprietary rights in the latter on payment of compensation to be determined under the Act.

It is the policy of my Government to do all they can to extend relief to political sufferers who made great sacrifices in the struggle for Independence. In pursuance of this policy, the State Government have refunded fines amounting to over Rs. 34,000 to 151 political sufferers and restored confiscated properties in seven cases. A Political Sufferers' Relief Fund was started by the State Government sometime ago with a contribution of Rs. 30,000, and my Government have decided last week to contribute a further sum of Rs. 50,000 to the Fund so as to extend the scope of its benefits.

The State Government propose to do the best they can, within the limits of their financial resources, not only to safeguard but also to promote the interests of the members of the Scheduled Castes and labouring classes, and

to ameliorate the condition of the backward classes living in the far-flung areas of Lahaul and Spiti. During 1951-52, an expenditure of about Rs 8 lakhs was incurred on various schemes of financial assistance to students belonging to backward classes of the State. The State Government have under consideration various schemes for the development of Lahaul and Spiti. It has been decided to set up a Tribes Advisory Council to advise the Governor on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of this area. The details of the working of the Council are expected to be finalized very shortly.

As the Legislature is aware, a caretaker Budget for 1952-53 was presented to the Parliament of India in February last, pending restoration of normal constitutional Government. This Budget was based substantially on the existing level of expenditure and receipts. It was a work-a-day Budget calculated to keep administration and development going till a popular Government assumed office. Consequently, a four months' grant was obtained on votes-on-account from Parliament. My Government is now busy preparing the Budget for the year 1952-53 and it is expected to be ready for presentation to the State Legislature by the middle of June, 1952. In this Session, you will not, therefore, be called upon to deal with this Budget. I may, however, make a passing reference to our financial position. At the time the Budget was presented to Parliament, Revenue Receipts were estimated at Rs 1,671 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure Rs. 1,670 lakhs, leaving a nominal surplus of Rs. one lakh. Since then the position has undergone a considerable change, mainly as a result of unforeseen additional expenditure resulting from scarcity conditions prevailing in the Hissar District. The nominal surplus has now turned into a deficit, but what financial position will be disclosed by the Budget to be presented later, I am not in a position to anticipate.

My Government feel very strongly that no amount of reform or development would be worth anything, unless an improvement is brought about in the day-to-day work of administration, in so far as it affects the man in the street. Whether it is in a Government office, or a court of law or a Police Station, the citizen must be in a position to obtain substantial justice and the prompt redress of his genuine grievances. Corruption at all levels must be rooted out and, with this end in view, prompt and effective punishment must be meted out to a corrupt officer, however highly placed he may be. My Government have already issued strict orders that no approaches or *sifarishes*, from whatever quarters they may emanate, shall be listened to or tolerated and that there shall be no interference with the work of honest and conscientious officers. The integrity of services will be fully

maintained and while good and conscientious work will be rewarded, bad, inefficient or dishonest work will be adequately punished. Promotions in service will be on the basis of merit and seniority, and no considerations of caste or community will be allowed to influence decisions. With this end in view, my Government are considering the feasibility of setting up a Subordinate Services Commission or of enlarging the scope of the functions of the existing Public Service Commission, for the purpose of recruiting subordinate services. This should put an end to any complaints of favouritism or nepotism in the matter of recruitment of personnel to various services under the State Government. My Government also propose to ensure that members of the Scheduled Casts get their due share in the services of the State.

Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, a few more words and I have done. I said at the commencement of my address that the present occasion, when the two Houses of the Legislature of the State are to-day meeting for the first time, is a landmark in our history. I hope and pray that the occasion will mark the beginning of a new era of consolidation, progress and prosperity.

The Punjabi is well known for his sturdy commonsense, his spirit of enterprize, initiative, capacity for hard work, and, above all, his optimistic, if not cheerful, outlook towards life as a whole. It is important at the same time that there should be a spirit of genuine co-operation and complete harmony between the various sections of our people. It is accordingly incumbent on all of us, particularly those occupying responsible places in public life, always to foster this spirit, thus making it possible for each of us, irrespective of groups or parties, to work unitedly for the welfare of the community as a whole.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and for the success of democracy, constant effort is needed on the part of all citizens. Animated as you, my friends, are by the highest standards of public service, I am confident that your joint efforts will be successful in solving the various important problems facing the State. In this I know, as you do, that the good wishes of the common man in the State are with you.

Ever since this State came into existence over four and a half years ago, our people have faced boldly many difficult problems. They have shown courage, perseverance and patience, and now we see before our eyes a new Punjab taking shape. I hope that you, the members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, will not only succeed in accomplishing the various plans already launched but also face successfully any new problems that may arise in future, so that when your term is over in 1957, the Punjab of our dream will have very largely materialized.

Good luck to you all ! Jai Hind.

SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker : I call upon the hon. Sardar Swaran Singh to move his motion.

Minister for Capital Project (the hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) : Sir, I move :

That the Assembly shall meet on Saturday the 10th May, 1952 at 10 A.M. and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly at 2-0 P.M. without question put.

Mr. Speaker : The question is —

That the Assembly shall meet on Saturday the 10th May, 1952 at 10 A.M. and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly at 2-0 P.M. without question put.

(The motion was carried).

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon Shri Sher Singh to move his motion on the Governor's Address. I may point out at the very outset that many hon. Members are anxious to speak. Therefore, I think and I am sure you agree with me, that 20 minutes should be given to the Mover, 10 minutes to the Seconder, 20 minutes to the Leader of the Opposition and 10 minutes each to the rest of the speakers.

Shri Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (Hindi) : Sir, I beg to move :

that the members of this House assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses assembled together.

Sir, in our State for the first time elections have been held on the basis of adult franchise. The efficiency with which these elections have been conducted, has obliged not only the Members of both the Houses of the Legislature but also the entire public of the State to congratulate the Governor. It was feared at first that there might be some disorder on account of the vast number of the voters. But that fear proved untrue and the elections were held with great efficiency and perfect order prevailed during that period.

Now it is the duty of those hon. Members who have been returned to this House by the people to create a new Punjab of our dreams by implementing all the schemes which can possibly result in the greatest good of the people. His Excellency the Governor has referred to all the problems and the schemes in his Address. There is hardly a problem the solution of which His Excellency the Governor has not offered in his Address. He has also referred to every important scheme. Bhakhra and Nangal

Project is the greatest project of our State. When this scheme materialises, the whole shape of the State will be transformed. So much so that the food problem of the country as a whole will also be solved to a considerable extent when this scheme is fully implemented. As regards Punjab, I am sure, it will be completely transformed.

Sir, according to the earlier estimates, concreting of the Bhakra Dam was to be completed by the end of 1959. But it is a matter of great pleasure that the Government and the Bhakra Control Board who are holding consultations with Mr Slocum, an expert in the construction of high dams, have now announced that it would be possible to obtain a full use of stored waters by the end of 1957. The project, when completed, is going to provide irrigation facilities to about 6,500,000 acres of land and generate 400,000 K. W of electric energy. We are aware of the fact that in our State there is very little land as compared with the ever increasing population. So the pressure on land is daily increasing. This danger is to be met and we are to make necessary arrangements in this connection. We have to make a proper use of the four lakh kilowatts of energy which is going to be generated soon. The Governor has Stated in the Address :

This power will be supplied not only to about 75 towns of Punjab and also Delhi but will be available on a large scale in rural areas for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

But I may point and that we can make use of these four lakh kilowatts of energy only if during the five years at our disposal we chalk out a detailed plan as to how to make use of this energy.

In the rural areas of our State we should plan for the development of cottage industries and other small scale industries. It is only by such schemes that we can utilize this energy and increase our production. Otherwise, the power obtained will go waste and our progress will be retarded. Every body knows that the Planning Commission is at work for the purpose of making plans for the country as a whole. My submission is that our State Government should also prepare schemes for the utilization of this electric power. In the next five years one of the main problems that faces us is to make the people electricity minded. Fortunately we have abundance of man-power at our disposal, and we have to train it to utilize that electric energy. With the help of this power we can provide employment to numerous people.

In addition to the employment that cottage and small scale industries will provide, the people will be saved from unemployment resulting from the

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establishment of large scale industries. In large scale industries human beings become parts of the machinery itself. They lose their individuality in this kind of set-up. But if we make a proper use of the electric power we can save our people from this danger. Here I wish to quote the words of Alexis Carrel.

Electrical power and modern machinery make it possible for the light industries to free themselves from the curse of the factory. Could not the heavy industries also be decentralised, or would it not be possible to use all the youngmen of the country in those factories for a short period just as for military service? If this is done instead of being merely a piece of machinery every individual would be a person. To-day the position of the proletariat is as low as was that of the feudal serf. Like the serf he has no hope of escaping from his bondage and be independent.

In my opinion, large scale industry has crushed the soul of man and it stands in the way of its full developmant. Decentralization is the only remedy for this. As a matter of fact we, in Punjab, at present have got no heavy industries. We can easily plan to have cottage industries in our rural areas. We can open workshops in the villages and train artisans for various vocations. In this manner it will be possible for us to make a proper use of the power which is going to be released shortly. In a period of five years we can prepare schemes of development and thus increase our production and make our country rich. It has been stated that the Government has before it a plan involving an expenditure of Rs. 21.67 crores spread over a period of five years. But my submission is that whatever the plans and the amount of expenditure to be incurred upon them, the first important matter is the training of the youth.

A sum of rupees two and a half crores is stated to be earmarked for education. But in my opinion unless and until the entire system of education is overhauled to suit the present day needs of our youth, no useful purpose will be served by this expenditure. The money that is at present being spent on Education is going waste. So without proper planning in this matter the State is not likely to make any rapid progress. The outmoded system of education is responsible for many of our troubles. There is unemployment in the country. Many people who are at present going about jobless can be gainfully employed for increasing the production of the country, only if we were to overhaul our present system of education, which is out of tune with our present day needs. From time to time in the convocation addresses delivered at various Universities this pressing need has been urged. The old and rotten system of education which Englishmen introduced in this country in accordance with their own requirements is still in vogue and nothing has been done to change it. It is a matter of deep regret that we find ourselves unable to do anything in this direction and continue to submit to this bondage. A sort of helplessness is noticeable everywhere. Even our Rashtrapati has been compelled to remark, "I find myself helpless to change this system of education". Under such circumstances when even

those who are at the helm of affairs find themselves helpless what will become of the country? Lakhs of youngmen who come out of our Universities every year are feeling pessimistic. They are without any aspirations and zeal for work. The country is finding itself surrounded by clouds of darkness and despondency. This is a problem of the problems of our country. We should try to solve it without any considerations of partisanship because it is a problem which faces our youth-nay our people as a whole. I would not even hesitate from inviting the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition benches to come forward with suggestions that they may have for the solution of this problem. We have to think in terms of finding out ways and means of pulling out our youngmen from the sloth of pessimism that engulfs them.

I, therefore, submit that all of us have to build up a new Punjab and for laying its foundations we will have to solve the economic and social problems of today which are facing us. We have not been able to solve these problems during the last 4½ years after the attainment of freedom. Unfortunately the youth of the country is turning despondent. If we wish the betterment of the country we must remove this despondency. We would be able to solve the social and economic problems only when this important problem is solved and the present system of education is changed.

I fully agree with Shri Vinoba Bhave in saying that if all the schools and colleges are closed for a period of two or three years and during that time a new system suited to the needs of the country is devised, then we will be able to make the young men and women economically independent and thus render a great service to our country.

It has been stressed in the Address that Government will take all possible measures to root out corruption from the State. This cannot be done till our educational system remains costly. The habits of youngmen of today have been spoiled. They spend in their college days amounts ranging from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- p.m. They are mainly interested in government services. When they succeed in getting some employment and that even at not more than Rs. 60/- p.m., they are tempted to fall a prey to corrupting influences. During their college careers they have been spending amounts varying from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- p.m. and in service they have to live on a much less salary.

These defects can only be removed, if we try to acquaint ourselves with the rural life. It is necessary to establish Rural Universities. It has been noticed that the officials who have to deal with the problems of rural population are not trained in that atmosphere and have very little knowledge of their problems. Inefficiency in services is due the unreal character of education in our Universities. Mere knowledge of a language and writing of good and correct notes are not sufficient for making a good officer. He has to know the problems of the people and has to be in touch with their daily

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life. I think that wrong decisions and delay in the work of the common man are due to the unreal character of the education received by them. For this purpose it is necessary to acquire a first hand knowledge of these areas. The students should be compulsorily made to do manual labour and should also be required to go to villages and live there for a period of a year or so before leaving the university. We will have to put in manual labour and make certain sacrifices in order to bring about these reforms.

In the end, I thank His Excellency the Governor for his Address and hope the Government will pay due attention to all the problems pertaining to education, transport, tenants and political sufferers.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City South-East) (*Hindi* : Sir I have stood up to support the motion of thanks to H. E. the Governor for his Address which has been moved by Shri Sher Singh. A few days back, when Shri Ajit Parshad Jain came to Jullundur, a number of questions pertaining to the various problems of refugees were put to him in a meeting. He replied that the Government had done so many things for the refugees which he recounted one by one. Similarly the Governor has referred to so many things in beautiful language in his Address which has by now become a mere formality. He has referred to the construction of Bhakhra and Nangal Projects. He has given a glowing description of these projects in the same way as a mother promises to give her weeping child so many attractive things, if he waits for some time.

Shri Nand Lal : On a point of information Sir. May I know, whether the hon. Lady Member is supporting the motion or opposing it ?

Minister for Capital Project : The Lady Member is supporting the motion by criticising it. (*Laughter*)

Shrimati Sita Devi : Yes, I am supporting the motion and not opposing it. However, I shall improve my way of expressing things. Well, Sir, the Governor has made no mention of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee which had been constituted at the initiative of the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon.

Mr. Speaker : I am constrained to say that if the Lady Member is unable to support the motion, she had better not speak.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I wanted merely to draw the attention of the Government to certain important matters. The upper-most thing to which I wish to invite the pointed attention of the hon. Ministers is the

nationalization of books and I earnestly request that to ameliorate the condition of masses and to make education cheaper it should be done immediately. In the past the books were not so costly as they are now and one primar "*Kayda*" costing a nominal price could serve the purpose of four or five children of the family. But now it costs us seven and a half annas. This price is obviously extremely high and it is a drain on a poor man's purse. There is no gainsaying the fact that if we do not take some strong measure such as the nationalisation of books and thereby cause reduction in their prices we cannot liquidate illitracy from amongst our teeming millions.

Now I want to say something about transport. As you know, Sir, an experiment regarding notionalization of transport was made on one route and that has been quite successful. Keeping this in view I would request the hon. Minister in charge to give a practical shape to the assurance given by His Excellency the Governor in his Address that the government would accelerate the pace of nationalization of transport.

I am happy to find in the Address the declaration that lawlessness would not be tolerated in any case. I feel that we should bear in mind that now when our own popular Ministers are at the helm of affairs, complete law and order should reign over the country. But I feel constrained to say that things are not happy, particularly in the rural areas, where maintenance of law and order, with a strong hand, is the crying need of the hour. Corruption should not be tolerated in any case and those found guilty should be severely dealt with. I hope that the Government, as has been pointed out by the Governor in his Address, will take all possible steps to root out corruption and maintain law and order in the rural areas of the State.

Then, there is another point of which I must make a mention and that is this. I am happy that Jullundur Municipal Committee has been superseded. The impression was gaining ground that those responsible for mal-administration in the Municipality were going scot free. I hope now things will be set right by the authorities. The time at my disposal is over and so with these words, Sir, I second the motion moved by Shri Sher Singh.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That the members of this House assembled in this session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses assembled together.

[Mr. Speaker]

As the number of amendments is very large it is very difficult to give opportunity of speaking to everybody. Some amendments which are not in order cannot be taken up. The other amendments shall be deemed to have been moved. There will, therefore, be no need for each mover of the amendment to move his amendment individually. The discussion will take place generally. Now I would call upon the leader of the opposition to speak.

Sardar Gopal Singh (Jagraon) (Punjabi) : Sir, I regret to say that I am not in a position to support the motion of thanks moved by Shri Sher Singh. India seems to have been divided into Hindu and Muslim India but after the division of the country, it has been seen that in India, particularly in the Punjab, many old conventions—well established conventions have been broken. The rights of the rural population which had been upheld by the regime before the partition of the country, are now being trampled under foot. Only recently the parity between Hindus and Sikhs in the Cabinet has been thrown to the winds. In the services as well more representation has been given to Hindus as compared with the Sikhs. My contention is that for the smooth running of the administrative machinery the Government should give equal representation to both Hindus and Sikhs in all the departments. Even in the Cabinet as I have already stated, the Sikhs are not being adequately represented. At present there are only 2½ Sikh ministers in the Punjab Cabinet because the hon. Sardar Swaran Singh is only one quarter of a minister (*laughter*).

I would say that great injustice has been done to ruralites when the highest office of Chief Ministership has been offered to Shri Bhim Sen Sachar who is an urbanite. When the Government makes recruitment to the Police Department it draws people from villages because it finds strong and sturdy men there.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member that communal matters should not be discussed on the floor of this House. I, however, did not object when he was making distinction between the ruralites and urbanites but it does not behove the hon. Member to say anything in the House which savours of communalism. I did not stop the hon. Member before, as I thought that some latitude should be given to the Opposition Party.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Sir, I was saying that rural people were being systematically neglected. While we see that when recruitment in the army has to be made, most of the young men are drawn from villages but when election of the Chief Minister is to be made the choice falls upon

a person who is an urbanite. So what I want to drive at is that the hon. Chief Minister who has passed all his life in cities can hardly appreciate the difficulties of the poor people living in rural areas. Sometime back I came to know that a deputation of Haryana Jats met the hon. Chief Minister.

Mr. Speaker : How do you know of that ? The mention of private affairs in the House is not allowed.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Sher Singh has moved a motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor but it appears that he has probably lost sight of the acts of highhandedness committed by Hindus when they openly carried on propaganda amongst the Harijans to record Hindi in the language column of the census forms.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Has the Leader of the Opposition been permitted to talk of such matters which have nothing to do with the Governor's Address ?

Mr. Speaker : I perfectly agree with you. I gave him a good deal of liberty simply because he is the Leader of the Opposition but I see that he is taking undue advantage of indulgence shown to him by me. I would ask the hon. Member not to refer to any such matters.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Sir, I do not wish to thank His Excellency the Governor for the Address that he has delivered to the two Houses assembled together because he should not have allowed such things to happen during his regime.

Shri Ranjit Singh : The hon. Member does not lose anything by offering his thanks to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Speaker : May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to Rule 14 which clearly specifies the scope of discussion on the motion ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member read from his prepared speech ?

Sardar Gopal Singh : Sir, I am not reading from a prepared speech. I would now refer to the general elections which according to His Excellency the Governor passed off peacefully and were conducted with remarkable smoothness. I submit that unfair means were employed in the general elections and ballot boxes were freely tampered with. There were illiterate persons who only left the ballot papers on the ballot boxes and the Presiding Officers subsequently inserted those ballot papers in the ballot boxes of candidates of their own choice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. These matters are *sub-judice* because certain election petitions have already been filed with the Government on the ground that the ballot boxes could be opened.

Mr. Speaker : I accept the point of order. The hon. Member should speak to the motion under discussion.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I concede that the matter is *sub-judice*. But as its mention has been made in the Governor's address, I consider it my duty to express my views about it and to show to the hon. Members of this House how the ballot boxes were tampered with by the presiding officers causing a general feeling of repulsion against these deeds and their doers.

Mr. Speaker : The Leader of the Opposition should exercise some moderation in his speech as he is more responsible than the other members of the House.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Then, Sir, it has been mentioned in the Governor's Address that Government proposed to do its best within the limits of its resources, to safeguard and promote the interests of the members of the Scheduled Castes. Though the Government has made a provision for reservation of seats in the Legislature for the members of the Scheduled Castes for a period of ten years, yet I think that all the wrongs that have been perpetrated upon the untouchables for the last so many centuries cannot be redressed within this period. Untouchables, form three-fourth of the population of India and are considered as out-castes. Their touch or even their shadow would pollute the Brahman. So to provide a meagre sum of rupees eight lakhs for students of backward classes would not bring about their welfare and advancement. Apart from this I submit that an adequate share is not given to untouchables in Government services. It may be pointed that that there are hardly two or three Scheduled Caste youngmen in the Provincial Civil Service, and Scheduled castes graduates are offered only petty jobs of clerks. Though the Government claims to have reserved 15% of posts for the Scheduled Castes in Government services yet this ratio is not strictly adhered to in any Government Department. Another point on which I would like to focuss the attention of the hon. Members is that sometime back the President of India issued an order under which certain categories of persons were included in the list of backward classes. It may be submitted in this connection that under Article 15 of Part 3 of the Constitution under the heading "Fundamental Rights" it has been laid down that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, class and

place of birth or any of them. But it is strange that whereas certain castes amongst Hindus have been declared as Scheduled Castes, all the backward classes amongst Sikhs excepting four have not been declared as such. This is repugnant to the provisions of the Constitution. I remember that sometime back it was given out in the newspapers that Sardar Mangal Singh, a Member of Parliament, had met Shri Rajagopalachari who was then a Minister of the Indian Government

Mr. Speaker : I will ask the hon. Member not to refer to a private conversation that took place between two persons. This is not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Then, Sir, I would submit that the Government does not recruit Scheduled Castes in the Police Department. I wonder why the Government has taken this decision when the members of Scheduled Castes are acquitting themselves with success in the army. Thousands of Ramdasi and Mazhabi Sikhs are employed as Sappers and Miners but there is no untouchable in the Police Department. It appears that the Government is prejudiced against the untouchables and that is why they are not recruited to the Police Department or to any other Executive Department. They have been the victims of injustice since long.

Minister for Development : But this Government took office on the 17th April, 1952.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Let me give an instance from my own district viz., Ludhiana. Taking the population figures, Sikhs constitute the majority. Scheduled Castes come next and Hindus are in the third place. As regards contribution of various communities to the defence forces, Sikhs have the first place, Scheduled Castes the second and Hindus the third. But in civil services, Hindus have got the lion's share, Sikhs come next and then the Scheduled Castes.

Secondly, I want to plead the case of poor Scheduled caste students who have to pay fees for appearing in University examinations. I admit that scholarships etc., are sanctioned for Scheduled Caste students and fee concessions are also given to them but it is a pity that these sanctions are given very late and meanwhile payment of dues entails a great hardship for Scheduled Caste students. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should itself undertake to pay to the University the examination fee due from a Scheduled Caste student.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. Member does not know that the University is not subordinate to the Government.

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Sardar Achhar Singh to make a speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. It has been a convention that the hon. Members giving notices of amendments are given priority over others.

Mr. Speaker : He has also given notice of an amendment.

Sardar Achhar Singh (Ajnala) (Punjabi) : I have to say just two things about the Address delivered to this House by His Excellency the Governor. Firstly, I take exception to his statement about the general elections. Elections were held neither in a peaceful atmosphere nor in a dignified manner. Even in their midst, Communist party continued to be the victim of governmental fury. I am not referring to any revelation vouchsafed to me but I am giving hard facts. Detentions continued ; our friends were not released even on parole ; warrants against others were not withdrawn and arrests continued to be made. All the influential members of our party were behind the bars. Our comrade Thakur Waryam Singh was arrested in Jullundur while filing nomination papers and was detained in Ambala Jail. Among the candidates that our party put up, Sardar Achhar Singh, Shri Wadhawa Ram, Shri Tulsi Ram and Sardar Gurnam Singh were not released and continued to be under detention. Messrs Chanan Singh, Hazara Singh and Waryam Singh were among those who were released on the orders of the Supreme Court a few days prior to the polling. Warrants against our friend who opposed S. Surjit Singh Majitha for parliamentary seat were not cancelled even till the day of polling. While he was running after voters, the police was giving him a chase. Take my own case. Twice I petitioned the Supreme Court praying for my release on parole for ten days, but His Excellency wrote that I was too dangerous a person to be released on parole for such a long period. Even the highest judicial court.....

Mr. Speaker : Please make no reflection on the courts.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Even the recommendations of the highest court were ignored. This is the atmosphere in which our party had to contest the elections. If this was peace, what else is turmoil or conflict ?

Secondly, I have to say a few words about civil liberties. After the first Great War, we got our reward in the form of Rowlatt Act, and after the second Great War we have got the Preventive Detention Act and that too from the Congress.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, my amendment is that at the end of the motion of thanks, the following be added :

But regret that no provision for the development of roads in the State in the five year plan has been made and the amount sanctioned for the help of political sufferers is too meagre.

Sir, I wanted to speak on my amendment only but some of our friends opposite have, regardless of all the parliamentary conventions, said certain things which in this 20th century or at least in this year of grace 1952, no legislator in the whole world could have said. From the speeches that these friends have made it so appears that the results of the general elections have taught them nothing. I was under the impression that they might have become wiser after the event but my expectations have been belied. Just as their respected leader Master Tara Singh has declared so many times in his speeches that no political party based on communalism alone can survive in the world of today but his communal mania continues to be unabated. Similarly whatever these friends might claim to be they have here said nothing in their speeches which could add to our knowledge except, of course, that which is calculated to fan the fire of communalism. I am reminded of my school days when a student who knew nothing of mathematics used to begin his answer book in every examination with the sentence 'let me first prove the Bionomial Theorem'. (*Laughter*).

In his address, His Excellency has referred to so many matters but whenever any one of these friends rises he tries to prove that elections were not allowed to be held in a fair manner. Sir, my submission is that they along with us were parties to the elections and so let some third party be the judge of the matter. In this connection, I would draw my friends' attention to the comments on our general elections which have appeared in the Press of Great Britain, America or even of Russia. They will find the same view expressed everywhere that the elections were held in a fair and commendable manner.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Do they know more about these elections than we do ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Now I advert to my amendment. Well, Sir, as we read in history the first road, better known as the Grand Trunk Road, is associated with the name of Sher Shah Suri. Then came the British era. During this period the British Government, of course, built all the roads but mainly from the point of view of military strategy and not that of public utility. Sir, after the 1st World War of 1914 when the motor traffic increased tremendously the Government constituted a committee known as

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Jayakar Committee under the chairmanship of Mr M.R Jayakar. That committee was required to make recommendations for the development of roads. The main trouble was that the roads under the management of local bodies and provincial governments were subject to a load of 1700 tons per hour while roads maintained by the Government of India were subject to a load of 680 tons per hour. Consequently, the local boards' roads were subject to a great wear and tear and could not be repaired by the these boards for lack of funds. So, the Committee recommended that as the provincial governments had no funds to look after the roads, the Central Government should take upon itself the responsibility of maintaining them.

The third era in the history of development of roads commenced with the Unionist Government coming into power after the introduction of provincial autonomy. It devoted its energies to the development of those districts only of which we have been deprived as a result of

Sardar Partap Singh : On a point of order, Sir. No one can make a speech in a language other than Hindi, Punjabi and English. The hon. Member is speaking in Urdu.

Mr. Speaker : This is for me to judge in what language he is speaking; clearly he is speaking in Hindi.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi) : Sir, at the very outset, I wish to point out that a good deal of irregularities have been committed in conducting the Elections. I need hardly go into the details as my hon. Friends occupying the Treasury Benches are fully aware of the facts about them. However, what I want to drive at is that the people who live in villages have lost their faith in ballot box. Restoration of their faith in it is essential as elections to local bodies will be taking place shortly. The defects in the ballot boxes should be removed. The people hold the view that the ballot boxes could be opened and the Presiding Officers had transferred votes from one box to another. Keeping these defects in view, I am of the opinion that the impending local bodies elections should be held on one day and the results declared on the same day.

Mr. Speaker . May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that this matter was not referred to in the Address? He should confine himself to the matters referred to in the Address.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Fortunately, the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon now holds the portfolio of the Revenue. The village folk have great faith in him. They feel that he is their true well wisher and, therefore, hope that whatever legislation he undertakes, he will do so in the best interests of the rural people. As a matter of fact, we will also welcome such measures.

Then, the most important question is the refugee problem about which much has been said in the Governor's Address. But there are two or three shortcomings in the manner in which it is being dealt with. The first lacuna is that when one set of people approaches the hon. Ministers, it impress upon them to adopt a policy that the people belonging to a particular village in Pakistan should be rehabilitated in one and the same village in Punjab (I) while the other group insists that the people coming from Pakistan should be settled in a village to which they originally belonged in the Punjab (I). The result of this policy is that whereas some people have been allotted 'A' class lands here while they possessed 'B' and 'C' class lands in Pakistan, others have been allotted 'B' and 'C' class lands here while they possessed 'A' class lands in Pakistan.

One more defect is that the Allotment Authority also hears appeals against its own decisions. This is fundamentally wrong. Consequently, so many appeals have been dismissed without having been properly considered. So many applications for review and revision are lying pending. I suggest that some definite policy should be chalked out by the government in this behalf. Many tenants have not yet been allotted lands since 1947, nor have they been given lands on *Batai*. Government should arrange to allot them land as early as possible. Sometimes they receive conflicting orders from the Financial Commissioner and the Director General, Rehabilitation Department on the same subject.

Besides, there are other problems which concern the poor villagers. It is said that the work of consolidation of land holdings will be completed within a period of 8 years. In my opinion this is a wrong policy. This work should be accomplished within a year. Besides, the charges realized from the Zamindars for the consolidation of their lands per bigha should be on a uniform basis. I feel that the major portion of these fees goes to meet the salaries of the establishment and yet the pity of it is that the work executed in respect of the work of consolidation of lands is not commensurate with the amount spent. I am of view that the Patwaries should be trained in this work which can be completed within 2 years if not in a year. It goes without saying that this will prove beneficial to the Zamindars. In this connection, I would like to suggest that an Act should be brought on

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the Statute Book under which the land so consolidated should not be subjected to subdivision or fragmentation in case its owner dies and leaves 5 sons behind.

Minister for Capital Project : Are you the eldest or the younger son of your father ?

Sardar Wazir Singh : I am in the middle one. (Laughter) Now I come to another point. Well, Sir, there are only two ways in which dissemination of Primary education can be brought about, namely, Centralization and Decentralization. Under the head of decentralization this work can be entrusted to Panchayats. At present the District Board and Municipal Committees are doing this job. I am of the opinion that Primary education should be taken away from them as they can never achieve any tangible success in the matter. Then I have to make another suggestion. The Panchayats should be empowered to decide the cases of litigation. At present, litigation is a very expensive affair. Supposing a man belonging to a remote village in Ludhiana district is compelled to file a suit in a court situated in the district headquarters. Obviously he has to bear extra expenses in coming over to the district headquarters to attend his case. If powers to try that case had been vested in the panchayat of his village, he would have been saved this unnecessary expenditure and inconvenience. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another point. The touring of Magistrates in the villages with a view to try cases can neither prove beneficial to the government nor to the parties concerned. It is the lawyers only who stand to gain. There should be some definite policy of the Government in this respect. It should find out how far it has been benefitted by a certain tour of a Magistrate and how far the public has gained by it.

In the end, Sir, I would like to impress upon my hon Friends occupying the Ministerial Benches, the desirability of making some tangible efforts for the uplift and betterment of the rural people.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, I wanted to include certain amendments in the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address. I sent a notice of the same to the Secretary of the Legislature but I find that one item out of my amendments has not been included in the agenda for today. Here I take this opportunity to read out the contents of my proposed amendments.

Mr. Speaker : Your amendment is on the Agenda. All these amendments are deemed to have been moved, therefore, I do not allow you to read your amendment at this stage. However, you can refer to it while speaking on the main motion.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Well, Sir my amendments are in the nature of suggestions to the Government which are as under :

1. *Unemployment and under employment*

Mr. Speaker, I carefully listened to the address and have again thoroughly perused the contents of the Address of His Excellency the Governor but, to my surprise, I have not been able to find a single word which could have been interpreted as dealing with the problem of unemployment and under-employment prevailing in our State. While I extend my heartiest thanks to the Governor for having delivered this address, I feel that I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make the Government realise that unless and until we are able to find a suitable solution of this grave problem, the goal of our prosperity will remain unattained. For this purpose, Government will have to take some effective measures to liquidate unemployment from our State and make the common man feel the glow of freedom.

The other day when we reached Kalka there were hundreds of coolies waiting impatiently to carry our luggage. In Simla, too, it was not by an accident, that, as soon as, the train stopped a large number of coolies rushed to carry our luggage. This indicated the amount of unemployment existing here. But this fact pales into insignificance when we consider the wretched conditions in which hundreds of rickshaw-coolies have to live and keep their body and soul together. I was surprised to find that the Address delivered by His Excellency did not contain any reference to the miserable plight of our labourers, what to talk of any measure being suggested to ameliorate their condition.

The same harrowing tale is to be found in the gazette issued by the Punjab University containing the Matriculation result of 50,000 and odd students who appeared this year. Out of this large number, as many as 34,000 students came out successful, but, I am afraid not more than 20,000 will join the colleges. The remaining 14,000 who passed this examination had high hopes for the future. But now they will have the bitter experience of encountering the 'no vacancy' boards. They will have to make great efforts to earn their livelihood. I can well imagine that a majority of these will swell the ranks of the un-employed in our State.

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I am sure that like myself my hon. Friends over there also must be having a feeling of pity for these unfortunate sons of the soil. I can say that the Government have paid no consideration to this colossal problem and our University has no plans to provide employment to these youngsters—the hopes of our land. This is a fundamental question of human interests. How can the people at large feel the glow of freedom under the duress of economic slavery which crushes the finest human qualities that we wish our nation to inculcate and develop. I fervently feel that the Government should take effective and immediate steps to combat both unemployment and under-employment.

2. Proper utilization of waste lands.

The second problem, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to bring to your notice is in respect of the proper utilization of waste lands in our villages. We can classify the rural population in three different categories, namely,

- (a) those who possess land,
- (b) those who have not got lands but possess sufficient capital and
- (c) those who have got neither land nor money.

It is our first and foremost duty to take adequate measures to reorganise the economic structure of our villages and to distribute the waste-land on some definite lines. It is, rather, unfortunate that His Excellency the Governor's address contains no reference in respect of this grave problem. I keenly desire that in the ensuing Budget session, a provision be made for the allocation of funds to be distributed among the penniless zamindars for reclaiming the waste-lands. I, therefore, suggest that Government would be well advised to give due consideration to provision being made for affording adequate financial aid to these poor people so that the land lying waste is reclaimed to the best interests of our peasantry.

We witnessed that during the recent general elections, the vested interests exercised their influence in full measure on the right of franchise that the landless peasants enjoyed on equal footing with the others.

An. hon Member. This statement is absolutely incorrect.

Mr. Speaker : No matter that is 'sub-judice' will be allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Well Sir, I bow to you ruling but I submit that the statement made by me is absolutely correct. Now I want to suggest, Sir, that the class which possesses neither land nor capital should be given loans through Co operative Societies. I very well recollect that under the measures taken for the distribution of waste land in Karnal district, injustice was done to many a poor people. As a matter of fact the measures are not being enforced in right earnest. Even the landless labourers who took waste land on leases were not given possession of this waste land when big people who already possessed large tracts of lands were obliged with immediate possession. In fact most of the waste land was leased to the rich people. The real landless cultivator -hungry for land—is still without land, though he can be provided with land. I request the popular ministry through you, Sir, to pay heed to these grievances and take steps to redress them.

3. Resentment against discrimination between displaced and non-displaced persons in the matter of allotment of residential plots at Chandigarh.

Sir, a good deal of resentment is prevailing in certain quarters against the attitude of the government in the matter of allotments of plots being made at the capital site. Sir, this point is second to none so far as its importance is concerned. His Excellency the Governor has clearly mentioned in his Address that preference has been and also would be given to the displaced persons in this allotment. I feel that I am voicing resentment of so many of my hon. Friends here and the local people in respect of this step-motherly treatment which is being meted out to the natives of East Punjab who have equal rights to settle down in the new Capital. I fail to understand, with what logic the persons coming from Lyallpur, Montgomery and Sargodha have better rights than those belonging to Karnal, Rohtak, Hissar etc ? Therefore, I request the government to do away with this discrimination.

4. Growing demand of rural population for more schools.

The opening of more schools in the rural areas is the crying need of the hour. During the elections, our visit to the countryside revealed that people in these areas are very much anxious to have more schools. In certain cases people are even willing to donate lands and contribute funds for the opening of schools ; but this is not going to help us unless Government take the initiative and effective steps for the spread of literacy in the rural

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areas. Generally, the District Boards cannot open new schools as the question of funds stands in their way. When such is the state of affairs, who says that the interests of the masses are being carefully watched ?

The Government should, therefore, allocate large sums of money in the budget which is coming up for consideration in the ensuing Budget-Session of June, 1952.

5. *Adequate protection to the tenants.*

It has been mentioned in the Address that important and far-reaching measures have been adopted to improve the conditions of the tenants but the people who are in touch with them know full well in what sad plight they are. Many promises were made to the tenants regarding the betterment of their lot during the general elections. Their present miseries and hardships indicate that they are the worst affected citizens in the free India. They are always at the mercy of landlords. A thorough investigation into the doings of the landlords would reveal that the provisions of the new Tenancy Security Act are not being enforced properly. There are many instances where the landlords are still in possession of more than 50 standard acres of lands. It goes without saying that their attitude towards the tenants has remained unchanged. The Act requires drastic amendments. Discrimination between tenants of evacuee and non-evacuee lands must go. Provision of canal water to the tenants as of right should be made. In fact, the whole problem requires the immediate attention of our Government. This is only possible if there is an over-all change in the policy.

6. *Housing problem of Harijans in Rural Areas.*

The miserable condition of the dwellings of Harijans in the rural areas cannot be ignored during the present era of democracy. This problem becomes all the more important if we keep in view the observations made by the Prime Minister of India regarding the dilapidated conditions of the houses of the labourers when he visited Kanpur. He was greatly shocked to see the most insanitary condition of their houses. This throws a flood of light on the miserable plight of the labouring classes as also the Harijans who are living in slums. Then inspite of the fact that in the Indian Constitution, special privileges and reservations have been provided for Harijans in almost every field of national activity, it is astonishing to note that the housing

problem of Harijans has not received the serious and active attention of the Government. Then again, an assurance was held out that under the programme of consolidation of holdings, land would be reserved for Harijans, but this assurance seems to have been confined to instructions only. Practically, no land seems to have been reserved for the landless tenants. Even His Excellency the Governor has failed to make any reference to this important matter in his Address. I, therefore, venture to submit to the Government, through you, Sir, that Harijans should be given a fair deal with a view to ameliorating their hard lot.

Now, I come to the next point i.e., 'top heavy' expenditure incurred by the State Government in connection with the maintenance of administrative machinery. The number of officers has increased considerably. This fact can well be verified from the telephone directory. In each department there is a Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, an Under Secretary, an Additional Secretary and an Additional Deputy Secretary. All these Secretaries are very highly paid persons. May I know as to what is the necessity of keeping so many Secretaries? May I ask the Government to consider the plight of the low-paid Government servants—the chaprasis, the patwaries, the foot constables and the petty clerks? Do we ever think as to how they pull on? The big gulf between the two classes must be bridged. With these remarks, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and resume my seat.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit that there are only 12 districts in the State but the expenditure is about 17 crores of rupees. Is this amount being utilized for the benefit of the common man? A reference to the Budget Estimates will reveal such wasteful expenditure as can easily be avoided. If I may be permitted to say so, the position of the Governor is just like a grand old man in a family, who is fed and looked after at the cost of convenience to the rest of the members. He is only to sit idle and get comforts.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should refrain from casting any personal reflection on any body.

Shri Sri Chand: This is no reflection. I am mentioning him with great respect.

Mr. Speaker: But the manner in which the hon. Member is referring to His Excellency tantamounts to casting reflection on him. He should avoid that.

Shri Sri Chand: Well, Sir, I was only referring to the position of the Governor. I think about fifty policemen, including constables and Sub-Inspectors, are always on duty at his residence. Whenever he moves about, a jeep containing policemen runs after his car to protect him. This reminds me of the traditions of the past. The Englishman may be dead or not but he has not gone issueless. He has left behind a child. (Voices : Legitimate or illegitimate).

Shri Sri Chand : We have got that child in the person of the Governor. He too has to get a jeep with police to protect him whenever he is out for a drive.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is a seasoned parliamentarian and I am really surprised to see him indulging in such things. I would request him to confine his remarks to the motion under consideration. There is no such reference made in the Governor's Address.

Shri Sri Chand: May I respectfully submit that we are discussing here even the things which are not mentioned in this Address ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order, Sir. Can an hon. Member question the ruling of the Chair ? The Chair has already given the ruling.

Shri Sri Chand: The ruling has not been given on the point we are discussing. My hon. Friend who has just preceded me was also discussing this point. All these amendments are in respect of matters, which have not been referred to in the Address.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, I want the Chair's ruling whether those subjects which find no mention in the Address can be discussed during the course of this debate.

Mr. Speaker: Well, the matter has already been clarified. This point requires clarification but, for the present, I would ask the hon Member to confine himself to all those points which have been mentioned in the Address.

Shri Sri Chand: I was submitting that the expenditure on account of the Governor is too high. The Governor has stated in the Address that our budget is not going to be a balanced one. I submit that the expenditure on this account can be cut down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The amendment moved by the hon. Member does not make any mention of the Governor's expenditure. He is of course at liberty to make general observations on matters mentioned in the Address. I would, therefore, ask him to confine himself to the amendment and to the topics mentioned in the Governor's Address.

Shri Sri Chand: I was going to submit that with a view to balancing the budget it is necessary to reduce the expenditure on Governor's account. The Governor has stated that for certain reasons it would not be possible for the Government to balance the budget. That is why, I am putting before you certain suggestions which I think, would go a long way to help in preparing a balanced budget. I have no objection to the status and dignity of the Governor being maintained but I want that the interests of the masses should not be sacrificed at that cost. Besides this, high expenditure in connection with the establishment of Ministries should be curtailed. As has already been stated by an hon. Member, the Telephone Directory indicates how large is the number of Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, and Additional Deputy Secretaries who have been employed in various departments. Then, Sir, it takes a Government communication two days to travel from one officer to another ; not because the officers are over-worked but because the Secretaries have not enough work to do and they make delays to pose that they are overburdened with work. I cannot help saying that posts are created to suit certain men. In fact the number of officers in this truncated Punjab has become double the number of officers employed in the pre-partitioned Punjab.

In the case of Subordinate Services it is said that Patwari is a corrupt official. But may I ask how in view of his meagre salary he can maintain his family without taking bribes ? Can a police constable, receiving Rs. 38/- a month, feed his children without being corrupt ? The Englishman knew it fully well that these were low paid people. He did not, therefore, mind his orderly accepting small tips now and then. But the pity of it is that the evil of corruption which was formerly restricted to the subordinate officials has now permeated the high officers. I, therefore, suggest that early steps be taken to put a stop to this evil. It is a matter of gratification that when hon. Ministers go on tour, the masses out of esteem and love for them have begun to present purses to them. But it is to be seen which Minister gets the larger number of purses - the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies or the Minister for Capital Projects.

Shri Parbodh Chandra: On a point of Order, Sir. I want to draw your attention to Rule No. 79. The hon. Member has been casting reflections on the conduct of the Government officials and the hon. Ministers. This is totally unfair.

Mr. Speaker: I shall really request Chaudhri Sahib to please confine his observations to general things and not to refer to the conduct of any Minister or an official.

Shri Sri Chand: But I have made no reference of this kind.

Mr. Speaker: Is it not a reflection on the conduct of the Minister that because he accepts a party or a purse, he is liable to be influenced by that? This remark indicates that he is corrupt. I cannot allow such an observation to be made on the floor of this House. (*Cheers*). If you want to do so, you may bring a substantive motion in respect of this matter.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : On a point of Order, Sir. Is the hon. Member entitled to speak for more than 10 minutes ?

Mr. Speaker: I generally have a soft corner for the Opposition but they are taking rather more advantage than I should give them. Now, there is only one minute more for the hon. Member to wind up.

Shri Sri Chand : Well, Sir, I bow to your ruling and leave this subject. My submission is that, after all, there are other districts, too, beyond the Ambala District to which, I feel, Government should pay their due attention. It is really a matter for regret that we do not find any college of Law, Medicine or Agriculture or such other educational facilities, for the people of these districts.

Mr. Speaker, mention has been made in the Address about the prevailing scarcity in the Hissar District. I really fail to understand as to why His Excellency the Governor did not anticipate the possibility of the occurrence of scarcity conditions in the district of Hissar at the time of the preparation of the Budget in the month of March. If the Government at that time had taken stock of the food and fodder situation in the Hissar District, I am sure, conditions would have been quite different from those obtaining there at present. But I cannot help saying even at the risk of repetition that there are other districts beyond the district of Ambala where the people are very anxious to be provided with adequate facilities for acquiring technical education in the shape of Law, Agricultural and Medical colleges. So far as the services employed in these districts are concerned, I have to say with deep regret that they are harassed and often forced to resign. They are also demoted without any rhyme or reason. I would once again request the Government to pay attention towards these districts, where the people are facing untold hardships and miseries. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and resume my seat.

Comrade Shri Ram Chandra (Nurpur) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, before I express myself on the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor I would like to quote an Urdu verse which aptly applies here and it is this :—

औरों का प्याम और है मेरा प्याम और ।

इश्क़् दर्दमन्द का तज्जो प्याम और ।

औरों का पजाम और है मेरा पजाम और ।

ਇਸ਼ਕ ਦਰਦਮੰਦ ਕਾ ਤਰਜ਼ੇ ਪਜਾਮ ਔਰ ।

First of all, I take this opportunity to offer felicitations to His Excellency the Governor for all that he has mentioned in his Address.

Mr. Speaker, I find certain points in the Address to which I would like to draw your attention and through you, the attention of the Government. I want to plead the cause of the 'under-dog' or in other words, of those teeming millions who earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow. Reference has been made in the Address about some steps having been taken to improve the condition of the tenants and I do feel that something, only something, has been done in this direction. But I wish to point out that as we are passing through a revolutionary era and it is our first and foremost duty to speedily effect such changes in the social and economic set-up of our society as are deemed necessary. We are faced with manifold problems, and the sooner we solve these, the better it would be in the interests of both the people and the Government. Besides the tenancy problem, there are various other problems which we are faced with and mention about which has already been made in the Congress Manifesto. Promises have been held out to the people in the Congress Election Manifesto that no time would be lost in doing away with the Jagirdari and landlordism in the country. Apart from this various other promises have been held out to the electorate by the Congress and these have to be fulfilled. In spite of the fact, that some steps have been taken to improve the hard lot of the tenants we find that in rural areas they are being harassed by the landlords and Jagirdars and there is no end to their sufferings. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Tenants are not allowed to sit together and discuss anything of common interest. It has been experienced that no action whatsoever is being taken to stop the landlords and jagirdars from resorting to malpractices and tyranny in their dealings with tenants. It will not be out of place to mention here that in certain rural areas of my district, zamindars who have succeeded in securing licences for fire-arms intimidate the poor tenants with dire consequences in case they do not dance to their tunes. Here I take this opportunity of requesting the Government to admonish the

[Comrade Shri Ram Chandra]

landlords to behave properly towards their tenants and put an effective control over and even cancel licenses of arms of those landlords who resort to such mal-practices against the poor tenants.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say a few words about the Labour Department. This department has proved very weak in its dealings with the public in general and the labouring classes in particular. In fact, this department is not functioning in a satisfactory manner. Now-a-days, much importance is being attached to this department as it has to play a very prominent role in the formation of our "New India". Under the circumstances, efforts should be made to organize it properly in the best interests of the labouring classes.

The raising of the standard of living of the 'under-dog' or in other words of the teeming millions of our country as also the people serving in humble and petty posts is the crying need of the hour. Steps should, therefore, be taken to revise the salaries of patwaris, police-constables, teachers and other low-paid Government servants. If this is not done, I am afraid, and as has already been stated by another hon. Friend, it would be well nigh impossible to eradicate corruption in the State.

Then, It is stated that the 'Grow More Food' schemes are being implemented in our State. I am of the opinion that adequate attention is not being paid towards this matter of vital importance. It is said that land available for allotment under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme is not sufficient to meet the demands of the people and for stepping up food production in the State. I wish to point out that land covering miles and miles is lying fallow at various places and it has not been brought under the plough. For instance, in village Indura, District Kangra, land covering one hundred miles has been washed away by the action of river Bias and has been rendered waste. We have been hearing for the last 3 or 4 years that bunds would be constructed in this Ilaqa in order to save the land from being washed away and reclaim the land already lost. I think that if speedy, earnest and effective steps are taken to canalize the water, then there is no reason why this land should not be brought under cultivation and thus add to our food production.

In the pre-partition days, all-out efforts were made for the development of the western side of the Punjab while the eastern side which is now called as the Punjab (India) was totally ignored. The district of Kangra which is one of the districts of the Punjab (I) and which was totally ignored during the pre-partition days continues to be ignored. I would request the

Government to devise ways and means for the development of this district. It is really a matter of deep regret that so far no steps have been taken in this direction. The people of my illaqa are put to much inconvenience for want of amenities of life. I would, therefore, request the Government to tap the resources of this district and chalk out a programme for its development. Here I would like to bring this point to the notice of the Government that if a community project is started for the development of this district, there will not be any difficulty in procuring labour etc., for the purpose. It goes without saying that the people of this district are very hard-working and honest. In spite of all this, they are not afforded any chance to prove their worth and thus make some contribution towards the development of this district.

Futher, I would like to submit that there is neither an adequate number of schools and hospitals nor good roads in my illaqa. I want that Government, while preparing the Budget, should pay due attention towards the immediate requirements of the people of my illaqa. Some areas even thirst for healthy and sufficient drinking water.

Now that we are entering a new era, there should absolutely be no difference between the rulers and the ruled. Now we are all comrades. Under the circumstances, it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to create confidence in the minds of the people and secure their cooperation in the administration. I remember, only a few days back, on enquiring from local police officers of my *illaqa* as to why steps were not taken to apprehend the thieves who had already created terror in that illaqa, I was told that they were not receiving co-operation from the people. I am of the opinion that an officer who does not know how to secure co-operation from the people cannot be called an efficient officer.

There is one thing more to which I would like to draw your attention and through you the attention of the Government and that is regarding the budget. In order to balance the budget, Government should see that the glaring disparity in the salaries of the high-paid officials and those of the low-paid Government servants ceases to exist. Again, I think I am right when I say that according to the Karachi Resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee, it was decided that the salaries of a minister during the Congress regime should not exceed five hundred rupees. Now that we have our own Government, we should not lose sight of the fact that the salaries of our ministers should in no case exceed Rs. 1000/- in the present circumstances. This will be setting an example to the government officials to voluntarily agree to cut down their high salaries which are disproportionate to the financial position of the poor masses.

Shri Sri Chand : Mr. Speaker, if you have decided to permit discussion of those matters also, which have not been referred to in the motion, I hope that you will give me more time.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member could discuss those things to which he had referred in his amendment. He did not make any mention of his amendment when he delivered his speech. I cannot hold out a promise, but if time permits, I shall give him another opportunity to express his views.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, I do not find anything in the Address for which thanks should be offered to the Governor. The hon. Member who moved the motion of thanks himself said many things against it. In the Address, an unsuccessful attempt has been made to give reasons for the failings of the Government and to conceal its misdeeds. As usual, promises have been held out that the Government have chalked out certain schemes and that it would do this thing and that in the near future. From our knowledge of what the Government did during the last five years, I have no doubt that these promises will also prove empty. For these reasons, my party will not support the motion of thanks.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that the elections were not fair. I am sure that if they had been conducted in a fair and honest manner, most of the faces which we see in the House today would not have been here.

The third thing to which I wish to refer is the absence of civil liberties.

Shri Ranjit Singh : The hon. Member appears to have a complaint against the public that they did not vote for the candidates put up by his party.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Let me remind my hon. Friend that only thirty-eight per cent votes were cast in favour of the Congress Party. The remaining votes were cast against that organisation. As regards civil liberties, I wish to point out that people in the villages are suffering harassment at the hands of the police. The police challans innocent persons under sections 107, 109 or 110 of the Indian Penal Code. Some persons are arrested on the charge of illicit distillation of liquor and others on some other false accusations. Police officers appear to think that as the Congress Government is in power, they can easily approach the Ministers and are therefore at liberty to terrorise people as much as they like. The fourth thing which I wish to point out is that permanent allotment of lands and houses has not been made to the refugees so far. It is said that the process of reviews and shiftings is going on. Those persons who have been in

occupation of lands for the last five years are now being dispossessed. For example, all the displaced persons who had settled in two villages in Ambala district have been dispossessed of their lands in order to make Sardar Baldev Singh the owner of those villages. Such things are happening in Amritsar and Hoshiarpur districts also. Scores of refugees are being turned out of the lands occupied by them, in order to allot the same to one or the other influential person.

Then Sir, various kinds of atrocities are being committed by the officials who go to the villages for distributing taccavi loans. In my own constituency, when the revenue officials went to village Miani for this purpose, they were drunk and they molested ladies in the absence of men.

Shri Sadhu Ram : The hon. Member should not refer to that matter as it is *sub-judice*.

Mr. Speaker : I shall request the hon. Member to take no notice of interruptions. He should continue his speech.

Sardar Chanan Singh : A large number of refugees are still without lands. Moreover, families have been scattered by allotting land to one brother at one place and to the other at a very distant place. Then, Sir, landless tenants and Harijans who settled on Bet lands are now being ousted from them.

Besides this, the location of headquarters of the Rehabilitation Department at Simla is causing great inconvenience to the public. As the displaced persons are scattered in the plains of the State, there is no sense in having these offices at Simla. For these reasons, I oppose the motion of thanks under discussion.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Nawanshahar) (Punjabi) : Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion of thanks. It goes without saying that the smooth and orderly manner in which the recent elections were conducted entitle the Governor and other government officers to our thanks. There is no doubt that at certain places some persons did improper things but that is due to human weakness. The acts of some people during the last elections were not liked by others but on the whole these were conducted in a very peaceful and orderly manner. For this creditable work, the Governor and his officers deserve our thanks and congratulations. Some of my hon. Friends over there complained that the elections had not been free and fair and that the Government interfered in their conduct, but I may tell them that if the Government had acted in that manner, they would not have been occupying those benches. The mere fact that they were elected proves that the Government did not in any way interfere with the conduct of free elections. If some persons could be got elected by unfair means, could not

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh]

some other persons be returned from the constituencies from which my friends who complained today were elected? Their real grouse should be against the public who did not return them in large numbers. I, therefore, congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the free and peaceful conduct of elections.

Then, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the question of rehabilitation of displaced persons. There is no doubt that a great deal has been done in that direction, but the displaced persons have not received all the help and encouragement which they deserved. We should tell the Government of India that the evacuee lands in the Punjab alone should not be regarded sufficient for the resettlement of displaced landowners. The shortage of lands here has resulted in the imposition of a cut in the allotment of lands. My submission is that when the lands of local residents have not been touched, why should a cut be imposed in the case of those who have come from West Punjab? If a certain policy has to be adopted, it should be uniformly applied. Why should a cut not be applied to the holdings of those big land-owners in East Punjab, who had to undergo no sufferings for the attainment of independence? I am of the view that the losses suffered by displaced persons should be fully compensated for by imposing a cut on the lands of local Zaminders as well.

The Government should follow such a policy as would put the burden of sacrifice equally on all the people. Undoubtedly, the Government has allotted all the available land to the displaced persons, but here and there certain shortcomings have remained in the allotments that have been made. This was inevitable on account of the short period in which this allotment of land has been completed. On the whole, the Government deserves to be congratulated for what it has done in this respect. But there is one thing to which I want to draw its attention, and that is that the allottees of lands have not been granted proprietary rights over them. At present, if a person wants to raise some money with a view to improving his land or to purchase some cattle by mortgaging or selling a part of the land allotted to him, he cannot do so. He is not allowed to sell or mortgage his land. I, therefore, submit that these people should be given proprietary rights over the lands allotted to them as soon as possible, so that they may be able to meet their essential needs. Besides, quite a large number of people have not been allotted any land so far. And the pity of it is that they are not given any hope even of getting the same in the near future. The Government has not disclosed any scheme for providing land to such people. A few days ago, a statement by Mr. Deshmukh appeared in the press. He stated that in India there were ten crore acres of cultivable land still lying waste. My

submission is that, if this is a fact, it is but proper that our Government should get its share from that waste land and distribute the same among the displaced persons coming from the other side of the border. Those people have got the experience of colonization of such lands and I am sure their past experience can stand them in good stead if they are given waste lands for cultivation. The Government should take advantage of their rich experience in this matter.

There is one more submission that I want to make. His Excellency stated in his Address at page 8 :—

Relief to displaced persons, as distinguished from their rehabilitation, is now nearing its end. The State Government are considering a scheme for the transfer of ownership of mud-huts to their occupants according to which only the cost of land will be recovered from the displaced persons on easy terms.

I am surprised to read these lines. The Government is not prepared to give even land for mud-huts to these people who have come here after leaving behind their houses, their property and everything. It is shocking that the Government should charge the price for the small piece of land on which small mud-huts are built, particularly when the land itself is evacuee property. It is a pity that the Government wants to profiteer even from the sale of evacuee land on which are built mud huts for our displaced brethren. Instead of giving some help to those people, the Government is going to charge from them the price of the land which is not theirs and to earn a profit in this way. I think if it charges the price of that land from those people, it will be doing a grave injustice to them. I wanted to put many more things before the House, but on account of the imposition of the time limit, Sir, I cannot do so just now. I will mention them at some other time.

Shri Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (Hindi) : Sir, while congratulating the Governor for the things mentioned in his Address, I want to draw the attention of the Government to certain important matters. Some reference has, no doubt, been made in the Address to these things but not in that detail which was necessary. For instance, there is the problem of backward areas. You, Sir, will be surprised to know that in my district there are about 400 villages where drinking water is not available. The people of those villages drink water from the wells dug in dirty tanks where water is too bitter to be taken. These 400 villages are situated in Rewari and Nooh tehsils. According to the medical report, the water of the wells in those villages is unfit for human consumption. Again, Sir, this is perhaps the only district whose headquarters are without a girls school or an X-Ray plant in the hospital. I think the previous Governments had put on record that these districts should be kept backward so that they might continue to help the Government in the matter of recruitment to the army.

[Shri Gajraj Singh]

Due to these reasons, those Governments did not let these districts prosper. But the present Government should not be actuated by such considerations. It should try to create a welfare State instead of a police State. Then I fail to understand why the Union Government has decided that the Grow More Food Schemes should be implemented only in already developed areas and not in the backward areas. This is a wrong policy. If this money meant for Grow More Food Scheme is spent in districts like Rohtak and Hissar, we can get rid of the recurring phenomenon of famines to a considerable extent. If the Government takes steps to develop backward areas, its burden can be considerably lightened. There was an Improvement Project meant for Gurgaon district. For a long time, we kept hearing about it. But now, God knows, why it has been put in the cold storage. Besides this, we were allotted another scheme of dams for the purpose of irrigation. We thought the Government would make good arrangements for this purpose. Now this work has been entrusted to the Irrigation Department which has started the digging of canals. But the difficulty is that whatever supply of water we used to get otherwise has now been stopped. Now that a Government of the people, by the people and for the people has been installed in our State, I hope that it will work for the uplift of the rural areas and will abolish bad laws.

Now Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to the ilaqa where famine is raging. In most of the villages, the poor people are in a miserable plight. It is because this illaqa is being neglected by the Government. Then, Sir, we understand that Government is contemplating to vest wider powers in the Panchayats in our State. But I feel that this will not help to improve the prevailing scarcity conditions and other problems of the people. If we look at the actual state of affairs, we find that the Panchayats have failed to administer even a handed justice to the poor and the weak. The panches only help those who offer them illegal gratification or houses for their residence. I think Government would be well-advised if it incorporated all the good provisions of the U. P. Gaon Panchayat Act in its own enactment. For instance, the judicial and administrative powers of the Panchayats may be separated. This will go a long way to improve the Panchayat Raj in our villages. With these words, I again thank the Governor for his Address.

Sardar Iqbal Singh (Jagraon) (Hindi): Sir, I wish to make a few suggestions on the motion of thanks to the Governor for his Address. I submit that no mention has been made about the elections to the local

bodies. In my opinion, these elections should be held at an early date as they are long overdue. Besides this, it has not been stated as to when elections of Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Local Gurdwara Parbandhak Committees would take place.

Another important matter which needs comment is the question of Nationalisation of Transport in the State, of which a mention has been made in the Address. So far as my experience of motor transport on the Amritsar route goes, I can definitely say that the efficiency has deteriorated. Buses which go out of order on the way remain lying on the roadside for a long time. Consequently, the passengers are put to a lot of inconvenience and unnecessary trouble. As compared with that, the privately-managed Transport Companies like the Ludhiana Transport Company, the Akal Transport Company and the Nirbhai Transport Company are doing their job with commendable efficiency and the public have no complaints against them. I think that only those routes should be taken over for purposes of nationalisation where the management of the Bus transport companies is unsatisfactory or where the public make complaints and have genuine grievances against the service.

Another matter which have been mentioned in the Address is the Nationalisation of Text Books. I think I won't be wrong if I say that the programme of Education as contemplated in this Address appears to me dry and soulless. Then, mention has also been made of the Primary Education and of the necessity of fresh legislation for speeding up the compulsory education. It has been stated that the Primary Education in the state is governed by the Act of 1919 which has outlived its utility and that the Act of 1940 has remained a dead letter. This matter is exercising the minds of the hon. Ministers now. It is gratifying to note this but I am of the view that a definite date should be fixed by which legislation on the subject would be undertaken so that unnecessary delay may be avoided. As regards nationalization of text books, it is common knowledge that it is a matter of much utility. I would, therefore, impress upon the Government the desirability of making good and cheap books available to the poor students at an early date. It would be advisable if a time limit is fixed for the accomplishment of this task. In this connection, it would not be out of place to remember the remarks the hon. Minister for Education is reported to have made at a press conference which he held on the sixth instant. He announced there that nationalisation of text books would be undertaken gradually. I fail to understand the policy of the Government in this matter. While on the one hand we are told that the intention of the Government is to speed up nationalization of text books within the shortest possible time, on the other our hon. Minister² for Education tones down the policy of the Government

[Sardar Iqbal Singh]

by using the word 'gradually'. I think it would be in the fitness of things to be precise and define the words 'shortest period of time' so that the public may know where they stand in the matter of nationalisation of text books. Another thing is that the Address suggests no ways and means by which illiteracy can be removed. If we look around, we find that about ninety percent of our people are illiterate. Mere enforcement of compulsory primary education is not going to help remove this illiteracy. I am of the opinion that some scheme of Adult Education should be prepared and put into operation at once. This is most important if illiteracy is to be removed from among the masses.

The last point to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members is that of the posting of punitive police at certain places. I had an occasion of seeing a village where such punitive police was posted. The residents of that village had assured the Government of their full co-operation in the matter of maintaining law and order, and yet the punitive police was kept there. The residents were prepared to help the Government in getting the unruly elements brought to book, but notwithstanding such assurances the authorities did not agree to withdraw the police post from that village and lighten the burden on the poor villagers. I cannot help saying that this state of affairs is really depressing.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (Hindi) : Sir, I wish to say one or two things on the motion of thanks to the Governor for his Address. In the first place I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards urban refugees whose condition is going from bad to worse. In this connection, it may be stated that Government has done well in postponing the recovery of small loans advanced to them till the final settlement of their claims. But, it is a pity that this principle has not been applied to those urban refugees who got loans from the Finance Rehabilitation Corporation. I see no reason why those persons whose loans exceed rupees fifty thousand should be deprived of this advantage. The claims of such persons run into lakhs of rupees (and it is but meet and proper that in their case also the recovery of such loans) should be postponed till the settlement of claims. I hope by doing so the Government would be giving relief to a class of displaced persons that has suffered enormous losses as a result of partition of the country.

Sir, I may point out at the very outset that the claims of urban refugees regarding their immovable properties left in Pakistan could not be verified at once. This work had to take time and the latest information on the subject indicates that the Claims Officers have verified two-third of their

claims. But when the time for the payment of these claims comes it will be seen what percentage of their claims they get. For the present, I feel, that the claims of all the urban refugees should be verified so that they may have a title to the payment in lieu of their property.

Then, Sir, I concede that according to the Government notification, the taccavi loans advanced to the Zamindars in rural areas are to be recovered by a scheduled time. But I submit that these loanees should also be given the same concession in the matter of postponement of the recoveries of their loans as has been given to the urban refugees. I think it is most unfair not to allow the rural loanees to derive full benefit from the concession given to the Urban refugees. Sir, through you, I would request the Government to remove this invidious distinction which is being made among the rural and urban loanees. It is immaterial whether some have taken loans amounting to Rs. 2000/- and others have taken less but they should all be treated on equal footing in the matter of recoveries.

As regards Hissar, it is stated that famine conditions are no longer prevailing there. May I ask those gentlemen who visited that district recently, whether they came across any dead bodies of human beings as well as of cattle or not? To-day, the famine conditions in Hissar and the neighbouring places of Rohtak District, specially in Jhajjar, have become grave. Those people who have seen things in these places with their own eyes are of the opinion that the conditions obtaining there are very distressing. The tehsils of Bhiwani and Loharoo have been suffering from drought for the last one year and a half. The pity of it is that water for drinking purposes is not available there. So far the people have exhibited great patience. But condition of cattle has deteriorated to such an extent that bulls of the value of Rs. 1000/- each have been sold for Rs. 70/- or Rs. 90/-. The matter does not stop here. The people have sold all their valuables and also their agricultural implements so that they could keep their body and soul together. But I am afraid that in the near future the conditions are likely to become still more grave. The Government have done well in opening labour camps. But people have to begin their work early in the morning from 3 A.M. or 4 A.M. and they are paid only a paltry sum of annas three or four a day. In other words, a family of five members is hardly able to earn fourteen annas a day. Similarly, the condition in the Spinning Centres opened by the Government is still worse. A lady working there for eight hours at a stretch can hardly earn eight or nine pice a day, because they are paid at the rate of one pice per hour. Two ladies of a family are thus able to earn four to five annas a day. Obviously, their wages are not commensurate with the rate of wages prevailing in the market. I would request the Government to see that their wages are immediately raised. Besides, I would like it to devote attention to this matter more than what it

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

has already been doing since time at my disposal is very short. I cannot do full justice to the subject under discussion. However, it is my fervent desire that this famine may prove to be the last in the district of Hissar, although the conditions obtaining there at present do not appear to be favourable.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (Hindi) : His Excellency the Governor can safely be congratulated on his Address, in the very beginning of which a brief account of the General Elections is given. Some of my hon. friends have alleged that certain irregularities were committed during these elections. But I may tell them that neutral people like the American and the British observers have expressed their appreciation of the fairness and impartiality with which these elections have been conducted. Even the Manchester Guardian has expressed a similar opinion about them. This is such an event as will cause all the hon. members to thank His Excellency the Governor. Then, Sir, we find that while the rate of wheat has been raised in the rationed areas of other States, we are getting it at the old rate. I think this is a matter for which we should feel grateful to the Governor.

Besides this, I may point out that Government has done a lot for the betterment of the tenants. Indeed it has been fairly successfully dealing with their problem. I am sure that Government will continue to solve their difficulties in future sympathetically. Now I have to make a mention of such important matter relating to the general development of the State as have not yet received proper attention in the Address. I think that the amounts of two crores of rupees earmarked by the Government for education and three crores for all other beneficent departments, like Industries, Public Health and Medical are not sufficient. In fact more money should have been allocated to these departments.

The fact that there is unemployment in the masses cannot be denied. The world renowned philosopher Mr. Bertrand Russel has said, in his book, entitled "Atom Bomb" that it is not the atom bomb that is dangerous. It is only the unemployed man power that is dangerous.

Obviously the problem of unemployment is such that it can prove to be very dangerous at any moment and it should be handled tactfully by the Government at the earliest. I am constrained to remark that so far, our Government has not devised any scheme to remove unemployment from amongst the educated people of our country. The unemployment is increasing every day and it is a very dangerous thing. I would like to make a few suggestions for combating this evil. The first suggestion is that Government should bring about a radical change in the method and system of education in the State. Such education should be imparted to the young folk as may prove to be of some utility to them in their later life.

Then the Government should pay undivided attention to the introduction of basic education in the State and no time should be lost to popularize it among the masses. In this connection, I would earnestly request the Government to allocate more money for this purpose. We have to revolutionise the whole system of education and therefore with the paltry sum which the Government usually earmarks for this great task, we cannot, to any appreciable extent, bring about literacy in the country. This is a great task and it is going to play a vital role in the building of our nation. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to make a liberal provision for this purpose. Some people might not feel the importance of this matter but I am clear in my mind and I have no hesitation in saying that a country like India can ill-afford to ignore the importance of Education. So I sound a note of warning to the Government that if it fails to bring about any tangible change in its Education policy, the problem of liquidation of illiteracy will remain unsolved.

Then, Sir, I want to say something about the difficulties experienced by the people of Hoshiarpur District regarding availability of potable water. My hon. friend, preceding me, also stated during the course of his speech that at some places drinking water, a bare necessity of life was not available. In thana Hajipura, District Hoshiarpur, there is a great scarcity of drinking water and people of that area have to store rain water in the pools. As a matter of fact drinking water is available at a distance of five or six miles from that village and it can be better imagined than described how much trouble those people have to undergo on account of lack of drinking water. If I remember aright, sometime back the Government had, under consideration, a Beit Water Supply Scheme, but nothing is known as to what has happened to it. It is not clear whether it has been dropped or whether it has any chance of being translated into action.

In the end, I would again urge upon the Government that if we are really serious in grappling with the problem of unemployment, so widely prevalent amongst the literate people of our country, a radical change should be brought about in our educational policy and that adequate provision should be made for giving this suggestion a practical shape.

Mr. Speaker : I want to draw the attention of the House to the Proceedings of the Presiding Officers Conference held in August, 1950. It lays down :—

“ The essential nature of this initial debate at the beginning of the session is to give an opportunity to the Opposition in the House to raise major questions of policy. A new House meeting together, a new Government or the old Government carrying on a new Session, wants to give this opportunity to the House to decide then and there whether they approve of the Government and their major policy or not. If instead of that, the debate ranges over a large number of minor issues on the lines of the normal budget discussion, the major issues are rather clouded and obscured and therefore the principal object of such a debate is not served.

[Mr. Speaker]

Now in the light of the extract, read out by me I would say that the hon. Members, while discussing the motion under consideration, have gone off the rails and the real subject and consequently the object of the debate is being defeated. I find that some of the members discussed irrelevant matters and did not confine themselves to the matters relating to the major policies mentioned in the Address. I think if they had made any constructive suggestions, they would have added to the usefulness of the debate. I may tell the House that according to past practice the hon. Members occupying the opposition benches severely criticise Government policy, while the hon. Members occupying the Treasury Benches defend it. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Members of the House to discuss general matters during the ensuing Budget Session when they would get ample opportunities to do so. Now they should restrict their views to the raising of major questions of policy. I hope the hon. Members now making speeches will keep this point in view.

Sardar Sarup Singh (Amritsar City East) : Mr. Speaker, it was rather very painful for me to find Mr. Prabodh Chandra making certain remarks which

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Can an hon. Member name another hon. Member ?

Mr. Speaker : Please do not refer to him by name. You can say the hon. Member from Gurdaspur.

Sardar Sarup Singh : Well, Sir, my hon. Friend from Gurdaspur after a long spell of frustration said certain things which he should not have uttered on the floor of this House. He cast aspersions not only on the Members of the Opposition but also on the great Leader Master Tara Singh.

Mr. Speaker : I did not hear any attack on Master Tara Singh.

Sardar Sarup Singh ; Well, Sir, he did say some very unhappy words about him. I would ask him to deny. If he does not do so, he would be doing so at his own risk.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I did not make a mention of him in a disrespectful language. I referred to him as Shriman Master Tara Singh.

Sardar Sarup Singh : The hon. Member started like this and then abused him.

Mr. Speaker : But I did not catch any aspersions on Master Tara Singh.

Sardar Sarup Singh : I will presently show what he said about him. While referring to the elections and views of Master Tara Singh about them, he said that Master Tara Singh was such an idiot

Mr. Speaker : Is the hon. Member indulging in wishful thinking or did he hear such remarks ?

Minister for Revenue and Development : Let us see the report.

Mr. Speaker : There is no need of it, when I say that I did not catch any such thing uttered by the hon. Member on this side of the House.

Sardar Sarup Singh : My hon. Friend did use such an unhappy language. I will just show, if you permit me to amplify my point.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should refer to his amendment and leave this matter.

Chief Minister : Sir, I would respectfully suggest that since the remarks made by the hon. Member are likely to create misunderstanding in the mind of the public, that part of Shri Prabodh Chandra's speech, where reference to Master Tara Singh was made, be sent for. After you have seen that, you may allow the hon. Member to proceed with his speech.

Mr. Speaker : I accept the suggestion made by the hon. Chief Minister. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Member to stop making speech now and he will be given another opportunity in due course of time.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi) : ' Mr. Speaker, after persuing the Address of His Excellency the Governor, I have come to the conclusion that it is just a compilation of pious wishes. The things, which enable the man in the street to feel the glow of freedom are conspicuous by their absence from the Address. Sir, with your permission I want to read out the following few lines from the Address " My hon. Ministers are anxious to do all that they can to better the lot of the common man in towns and villages of the State."

But before commenting on this, I would like to submit that no member of any party including the Congress Party, excepting Sardar Gurbachan Singh has so far thanked His Excellency the Governor for his Address that he delivered before the House. He, too, perhaps was prompted by a selfish motive of having won the elections.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the Hon. Member to withdraw these remarks as he cannot impute motives to any hon. Member

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, I withdraw the remarks. I would say that to me nothing appears to be of any outstanding importance in the Address for which we may thank His Excellency the Governor though some of the hon. Members have remarked that the elections in the State were free and fair. I may draw the attention of the Hon. Ministers to the policy and programme of the Government as outlined in the Governor's address. In this connection I may submit that Gandhiji once said "India lives in her villages and not in cities. If the villages perish India perishes, too". In fact, the independence that we have achieved after a hard struggle is of no significance if the Government do not raise the status and standard of living of the common man. Nobody can deny that the people in villages are considerably neglected. May I ask the Government what amount of land revenue realised from the villagers is spent for their welfare and advancement as compared with the people living in the cities? The Government may on the other hand take some credit for improving the conditions in cities and constructing some good roads there. It might also say that it had provided all comforts and luxuries of life in the cities. But there is no denying the fact that the sanitary conditions in the villages are hopelessly bad. The streets are all found to be dirty and full of filth. There are ponds here and there in villages giving out a foul smell and scattering germs of diseases. In many villages there are no schools at all making it very difficult for the people there to get education. Sir, any talk of improvement would be futile unless villagers are given some education. But I am sorry to say that the Government has not taken any adequate steps to disseminate education in the villages. I would, therefore, urge upon the newly-formed Government in which there are representatives of the rural people, as well to take effective steps to ameliorate the conditions of the people in the rural areas and address itself seriously to the task of providing all amenities in villages. The Government should, for instance, set apart a portion of its revenue for broadening and levelling the paths connecting different villages. Our experience during the elections has shown that it is very difficult to go from one village to other in the absence of good roads. Then, Sir, I would submit that in villages most of the houses are either in ruins or in a wretched condition. It is, therefore, necessary to make them habitable. Besides that, provision should be made for proper medical aid. Dispensaries should be opened where the villagers may be able to get medical aid free or the doctors should visit the villages after short intervals and give medical aid to the people on the spot. The Government should make all possible efforts to provide them with food, shelter clothing and also the necessary facilities for education.

The next thing on which I would like to focus the attention of the hon. Members is the Grow-More-Food campaign. In this connection, I would

say that large sums of money that are spent every year do not produce good results. The officers of this Department go on tours in villages in their cars and come back to their head-quarters without doing any useful work. The main purpose of officer visiting the villages is to charge travelling allowance from the Government. In this way no substantial benefit accrues to Zamindars nor do the Government stand to gain anything. I can say from my personal experience that the families of the officers of this department only enjoy rides in the cars at the Government expense. The real purpose for which cars have been placed at their disposal is not at all served. The enormous amount which is spent annually on this scheme is thus almost wasted. Under these circumstances, what is needed is that the zamindars should be given all necessary facilities, for example, of irrigation manures and tractors, etc., which may act as an incentive to the cultivator to increase his food produce. No appreciable progress is likely to be achieved merely by making propaganda or by affixing big posters in villages. If the Government really wants to make the Grow-More-Food Scheme a success, it should give proper incentive to the zamindars for increased food production.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpur (Adampur) (Punjabi) : Sir, much has been said today on His Excellency the Governor's Address, and I would also like to say something about it. I find that mention has been made specially of four Rural Community Projects which have been allotted to this State. I can say that the Address of His Excellency the Governor this time is comparatively better than his previous Addresses. There are, however, certain lacunae here and there to which I would draw the attention of the House. Our Prime Minister of India-Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru-sometime back laid great stress on the fact that there was great need for raising the standard of living of the people in this country. There is no denying the fact that the standard of living of the people in our country, especially in the Punjab, is notoriously low. I would say that the condition of animals in the advanced countries is much better than that of the people living in our country. Our dress is very shabby, our diet is very poor as compared with the people living in other countries.

Mr. Speaker : I may inform the hon. Member that it is not a public meeting. He is addressing the House as if it is a public meeting outside Lohari or Shahalmi Gate. (Voices: Go to your seat). I have no other alternative but to request the hon Member to go to his seat and then resume his speech.

Professor Mota Singh ; Sir, I had taken your permission the other day to occupy this seat and brought this fact to the notice of the Leader of the House as well through the Secretary.

[Professor Mota Singh]

Well Sir, my submission is that we have to raise the standard of living of our people. We cannot realize this object unless and until we harness all the natural resources available in our State. This has not been done so far. Little has been said about schemes of industrialization in the Address. No early hope of removal of poverty or illiteracy has been held out. These lacunae I have particularly noted in His Excellency's Address. How do the Government propose to remove these two evils—poverty and illiteracy?

To remove poverty and unemployment from the country, besides speeding up schemes of industrialization, we have to give the greatest attention towards reclamation of waste land. Land is our primary source of livelihood and we can't afford to neglect it. I have to say with regret that though much has been said both through the Press as well as from the platform about the liquidation of poverty, no practical steps have been taken to banish it. (cheers). Much of the land in our State has been spoilt and rendered unfit for cultivation due to soil erosion and floods. The vehement demand of the people for embankments and other flood control measures has in the past met with no response. Mere pious wishes in which this Address abounds cannot bring about the salvation of our people. (cheers). Practical measures to ameliorate the condition of land and the tillers are the crying need of the hour.

These people are so much poverty-stricken that they cannot make themselves heard anywhere nor can they afford to engage lawyers to represent their view-point. For every little thing they have to grease the palms of subordinate officials whom also poverty compels to resort to corrupt practices. In the present structure of society, you cannot improve the lot of the people by halting and half measures. A complete reorganization and reorientation is needed to bring the glow of freedom to the man in the street. Our hopes are pinned to the Nangal and Bhakra Projects. We have heard about them quite a lot and since very long. We have now been told that Bhakra Project will be completed by 1957 and that assurance is also circumscribed by 'if's' and 'but's' provided the necessary material, the experts and the requisite machinery are available. Our State is already in a state of desolation but these conditions are still being repeated. I would urge upon the Government the necessity of expediting work on these projects for on them depends the future prosperity—nay the very life of this State.

Minister for Local Self-Government : Sir, under Rule 77 no member can speak except from his own seat.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member had represented to me that as he was hard of hearing he might be allowed to occupy a seat nearer to the throne.

Minister for Local Self-Government : But if you have been pleased to allot him this seat, well and good otherwise it is irregular to speak from a seat other than the allotted one.

Mr. Speaker : I have now allotted him this seat.

Professor Mota Singh : I can speak from there, if this be your heart's desire.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should address the Chair.

Professor Mota Singh : There are two more important problems to which I want to refer. One is the rehabilitation of refugees and the allied problem of consolidation of agricultural holdings and the other is unemployment. The Rehabilitation Department has been honeycombed with corruption. I have spent quite a number of years in getting the corrupt officials of this department apprehended, but corruption is far from being eradicated. I urge the appointment of a committee as early as possible to reform this department.

Then practically nothing has been done to remove unemployment. 'Employment Exchanges' have been opened but their working is extremely faulty.

Mr. Speaker : This pertains to a department which is under the Central Government whose policy cannot be discussed here.

Professor Mota Singh : Sir, I was under the impression that these exchanges really do some useful work but I find that they exist in name only.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Members have not paid any heed to my words that this discussion is not a general discussion on the Budget and that it should be confined to matters of major policy because only then it would serve its real purpose.

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon Master Nand Lal to speak.

Shri Ranjit Singh : On a point of information. Sir, Is there some list according to which a certain member is called upon to speak?

Mr. Speaker : No such List has been prepared. But Prof. Mota Singh sent me chit stating that it was becoming impossible for him to exercise restraint upon his urge to speak.

Mr. Speaker : Since Master Nand Lal is not in his seat I call upon Shri Bhagat Ram to make his speech.

Shri Bhagat Ram (Haripur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion of thanks put forward by my hon. Friend Shri Sher Singh.

One thing which stands out prominently in the Governor's address and that is in a way very important from my point of view. It is stated on page 12 of the Address that

"It is the policy of my Government to do all they can to extend relief to political sufferers who made great sacrifices in the struggle for Independence".

In pursuance of this policy the State Government has refunded fines to the tune of Rs. 34000/- to 151 political sufferers and has restored their confiscated properties to them.

The political sufferers relief fund was started by the Government some time ago with a contribution of Rs. 33000, but last week the Government decided to increase the fund by a further sum of Rs. 50,000 with a view to extend the scope of its benefits."

Shri Sri Chand : Does a political sufferer include an INA ?

Minister for Local self Government : Is it a point of order ?

Shri Bhagat Ram : you will kindly note the time which is wasted in this way. Well, Sir, I was going to submit that the patriots who fought in the struggle for freedom and sacrificed their all to achieve this object, have been and still are in a miserable condition. It was most essential that immediately after the attainment of independence some measures, designed to ameliorate their lot, should have been adopted. But it is rather amazing that such persons should pass their days in penury. However, it is a matter of gratification that Government have taken up this matter in hand and the policy framed by it in regard to this matter gives encouragement to the people at large that after all the patriots living in destitution are not being ignored by the Government.

I then congratulate the Governor and the Government for having formulated a comprehensive plan for the general betterment of the State which I am sure, will soon be given a practical shape. I would, however, like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the amount earmarked for the development programme is too meagre. I, therefore, request that maximum possible funds should be made available in order to make this programme a success.

Besides this, Bhakra and Nangal Projects find a prominent mention in the Address. In this connection, I would suggest to Government to extend the scope of the Scheme in such a way as to make electricity available for tube

wells, and small scale industries and looms in the backward rural areas of the Kangra District. I hope that while devising such a Scheme, the areas of Lahaul and Spiti will not be lost sight of by the Government. I also hope that similar facilities would be extended to the backward area of Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur districts. These areas are not only economically backward but educationally too. They lay behind. I think that measures calculated to the spread of education will be a step in the right direction.

Shri Ranjit Singh (Hissar Sadar) (Hindi) :

Sir, the perusal of Governor's address, creates a feeling in ones mind that it contains nothing new and that it has been prepared on old stereotyped lines. Ordinarily an Address by the Governor indicates the policy of the Government but I am constrained to remark that it is bereft of that policy. If I may be permitted to say so, the Governor has been running the administration of the State as agent of the President Indian Republic. Naturally this address contains the policies framed by the Central Government. But at the same time it is heartening to note that our newly-formed Government has endorsed to put life in this stereotyped Address-by extending relief to the political suffers and tenants for improving their hard lot. Since it assumed office only very recently, it had very little time to devote its attention to other important matters. I, however, congratulate the Governor for the magnificent work he has done for the people of the State.

He deserves our thanks for the fact that the elections passed off peacefully and that hardly any disorder or breach of peace occurred in the State at that time. I am of the opinion that the smoothness, efficiency and impartiality with which the elections were conducted, are a tribute not only to the Governor, but also, to the large number of officers who were engaged on this huge task. As regards the allegations made by the hon. Member opposite that the elections were not conducted with fairness, I feel they have only displayed their narrow mindedness by discussing the motion under discussion. I may point out and it goes to the credit of the Government that the people in the Western Countries have commended the spirit and the fairness with which the first general election of India were conducted. Not only that, an hon. Member occupying one of the opposite benches was heard, to say that he was quite satisfied with the fairness of the elections. He went still further and remarked that whereas certain Presiding Officers incharge of the elections did not allow the Congress Party to bring the motor vehicles carrying its voters within the precincts of the Polling Booths, they permitted his party to do so.

An hon. Member : Will the non. Member let this House know the name of that member ?

Shri Ranjit Singh: I have no mind to disclose the name of that hon. Member as it would be unfair to him if I did that. Now I wish to make a few suggestions to the Government, which assumed office only very recently.

First of all I would like to discuss the condition of draught prevailing in the district of Hissar and, through you, Sir, invite the attention of the Government to the gravity of this problem. It goes without saying that the people of this famine stricken area warned the Government of the impending calamity, the morient, the scarcity conditions began to appear. But, I regret to say that the Government of the day did not pay proper attention, to this matter. Probably Government was busy in making preparations for the elections of free India—a goal for the attainment of which, many leaders of the land fought and sacrificed their all. But I think, since I.C.S. officers were incharge of the administration, they dealt with this problem on the lines of the British regime and perhaps that is why the things took a turn for the worse. Still it is my feeling that if the construction of Bhakra canals in Hissar had not been started with a view to provide some means of livelihood to the people of the area starvation would have been widespread and it would have taken heavy toll of lives. I fully realise that the new popular Government is very anxious to take every possible step to eliminate any chances of starvation and further scarcity and for this purpose whirlwind tours undertaken by the hon. Minister for Development and the hon. Minister for Public Works are really commendable. They have seen things and studied the situation in its perspective at the spot. But, I think that mere declaration of such areas as famine areas would not suffice, unless some effective steps are taken to improve matters. In this connection, I suggest that it would be advisable if the work of digging wells and ponds etc. is completed by the end of May, 1952, so that the labour thus employed may be utilized in the raising of the next crop. (interruption). I request the Chair that in view of the gravity of the problem that I am discussing, I may be allowed a little more time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is permitted to speak for two minutes more.

Shri Ranjit Singh: Well, Sir, both the hon. Ministers for Development and the hon. Minister for Public Works are now in full possession of the fact regarding the horrible plight of the area. Not going very far, I would make a mention of my own village where a canal also runs by. But I know the difficulties experienced by the people, despite the fact that they enjoy certain amounts. But I wonder, what would be the condition of the people to whom the canal water is not made available? I would, therefore, suggest to Government to set aside as much money as possible for helping the people

of such areas where no relief measures have so far, been taken. Not only this the sources of canal divisions should also be pooled to expedite the relief to the famine-stricken areas. Since the ilaqa of Loharu is still far away from the reach of the canals, I further suggest that, the inhabitants of this area be given sufficient financial aid with which they may be able to pull through during these hard times. I would urge upon the Government that under the existing circumstances, it should not put forth the plea of financial stringency but spend money liberally on the construction of roads, canals, wells and ponds etc. in the famine-stricken areas with a view of alleviate the distress of the people.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): Sir I wish to make a few observations with regards to the recent General Elections. It has been claimed in the Address that the elections were conducted in an atmosphere of impartiality and that the electorate were generally able to exercise the right of vote without let or hindrance. Then the Congress party feels elated over the remarks of some leading men of the West commending the spirit in which India's first general elections were held. But I am of the opinion that mere laudatory expressions of the Foreigners cannot conceal the true facts about these elections

When Mr. Dodd, Director General of the F. A. O. previously came to India he remarked that the plight of peasants and the common man could never improve unless India achieved a fair measure of food stability. It was after his visit to this sub-continent that we faced acute food shortages - twenty lakh tons in the first year, fifty lakhs in the second and finally we were short of seventy lakh tons of foodgrains, and again, when he visited India during the months of January and February last he remarked that there was improvement in the food-situation of India. Is this praise not terrorizing when actually our food conditions are not bright and are rather, going from bad to worse? Similarly if he says that elections in India were smooth and fair; it is very hard for us to believe the statement. At several places, a good many irregularities were committed. I can quote instances where the tenants are still being harassed by landlords because these poor and down-trodden people did not cast their votes in accordance with their behests. As a result of this the tenants are now being ejected in large numbers. This treatment is being meted out not only to the Communist or Lal Communist Party but also to the electorates in the constituency of my hon. Friend Shri Teg Ram. These are hard facts which can not be overlooked I wonder how under the present circumstances a Government can claim that the elections passed off peacefully and without any disorder having taken place?

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]

Then, sir, much has been said in the Address regarding the steps taken to better the hard lot of the tenants, but I think this disease, instead of being healed is increasing in severity and the couplet—

मर्ज बढ़तो गया व्यूं व्यूं दवा की ।

aptly applies to the situation. I feel that Government nearly indulges in tall talk when it makes public announcements regarding the provision of certain facilities to the tenants. May I tell the House as to what is the feeling of these people ?

They curse themselves and say, "We are unlucky fellows. Since ejectments of our brother tenants have been made in a large number of villages, any time we may also meet the same fate, or else. We may also be called upon to share crops on Batai basis". As a matter of fact landlords do whatever they like but it is a pity that tenants rehabilitated to-day have again been placed at their mercy. Tehsil Fazilka is the best index of this position.

Besides this the tractors provided by the Government on takavi basis to the landlords are not being properly utilized for increasing in the production of foodgrains. I think they are meant to help them in strengthening their hold on the land. In other words these tractors are being used not to increase the productivity of land but to mar the future career of children of the tenants of to-day. In this connection I have got with me facts and figures showing the real state of affairs but due to paucity of time it is not possible for me to read out the same in the House. I am of the view that even at present our country is in the clutches of either the landlords or the traitors of 1857. In fact the villages are being ruined. Whereas the villagers fervently desire to work on the land, the sword of Demoles in the form of ejectment is hanging over their heads. They are afraid lest they should again be put in an awkward position of earning their livelihood by flattering these landlords. Under the circumstances with these fears they can never dream of ever securing freedom from the landlords. I think if the Government is sincere in its desire to improve the lot of the tenants it should, in the first instance, hold out an assurance to the tenants that ejectments will be stopped not only for a period of four or five years but also for all times to come. This will offer them relief and an impetus to put in hard work for the productivity of land. Again, if our goal is to make Punjab prosperous, let the tenants shed their fears of ejectment. No one knows how long landlordism in this state is going to stay but I suggest by the time it is brought to an end one thing must be done and that is this the landlords owning 50 acres should give one third share of land to the tenants and those owning 100 and 150 acres should respectively give to them one fourth and one fifth

of their lands. Thus every additional quota of 50 acres of land will bring down the share of the landlord by one unit. This scheme will first hit those landlords who are residing in bungalows at Dehra Dun, Simla, Kalka and Kasauli. I am of the opinion that until this is done, the tiller of the soil stands no chance of benefitting from any improvement he might make in his economic condition and unless he makes some progress, an emergence of New Punjab is not possible. Many of my hon. friends have congratulated the Governor only as a matter of formality, otherwise the points which I have raised do not find any place in the Address. Had there been any mention of such things we too would have been in the forefront to offer our thanks.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members, Sardar Sarup Singh had, during the course of his speech, made certain allegations against the hon. Member Shri Prabodh Chandra, saying that the latter had cast aspersions on Shriman Master Tara Singh. The hon. Chief Minister suggested that the portion of the speech of Shri Prabodh Chandra, in which any reference to that great Leader was made, should be placed before the House so that hon. Members may come to know what Shri Prabodh Chandra had said exactly on the subject. So here is a transcription of that portion of the speech which the official reporter took down in shorthand. It runs thus :

“ It appears from the speeches made by the hon. Members opposite that they have not learnt any lesson which the results of General Election indicated. Even Shri Master Tara Singh had stated many a time in his speeches that gone were those times when any political party could survive on the basis of communalism.”

Now this statement may be correct or otherwise, but one thing is patent. It contains no aspersion or any kind of reflection on Shri Master Tara Singh. I would, therefore, call upon Sardar Sarup Singh to withdraw all those remarks which he made against Shri Prabodh Chandra, saying that the latter ran the risk if he did not controvert them.

Minister for Revenue and Development : On a point of order, Sir. I particularly draw your attention to the words which the hon. Member alleges to have been uttered by Shri Prabodh Chandra. He remarked that the hon. Member Shri Prabodh Chandra had said that ‘Master Tara Singh is an idiot’. I want the hon. Member to withdraw these words as they never were uttered by Shri Prabodh Chandra.

Mr Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member, Sardar Sarup Singh to show sportsman spirit by withdrawing all those words which he attributed to Shri Prabodh Chandra.

Sardar Sarup Singh : In deference to the wishes of the hon. Speaker, I withdraw these words. But I feel that...

Mr. Speaker : There is no question of 'buts' and 'ifs'. The hon. Member has to withdraw those remarks unreservedly.

Sardar Sarup Singh : The hon. Member was sometimes speaking in low tones and sometimes whispering those undesirable words. They did not come on the record.

They were probably off the record. But this does not mean that I challenge the record.

Chief Minister : Sir, I respectfully bring to your notice that the hon. Member is in a way suggesting that the record is incorrect, which is not a fact.

Sardar Sarup Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has perhaps misunderstood me. I have not challenged the record, nor do I mean to doubt its veracity. What I have said is that the hon. Member over there was sometimes whispering and sometimes speaking about Shri Master Tara Singh in that language.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not to take notice of the whispers. I am simply surprised to see that a person who is a seasoned lawyer like Sardar Sarup Singh should give credence to whispers and attribute certain remarks to an hon. Member who never uttered them and who denies having said anything of that sort, and even the record bears testimony to that effect. I, therefore, feel that the only honourable course left for him is to withdraw his remarks, unreservedly.

Sardar Sarup Singh : I withdraw my remarks, Sir. Now I can continue my speech.

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Sardar Sarup Singh (Amritsar City East) : Well, Sir, I may point out that but for Master Tara Singh, my hon. Friend over there might have been loitering in the streets of Pakistan to-day and it does not behove...

Mr. Speaker : Is that a fair comment to be made on the Governor's Address? I shall appeal to the hon. Member's sense of judgment and if that is a matter relevant to the Governor's Address as to what the ask fate of hon. Member would have been if such a thing happened or had not happened. I would request him to confine his remarks to the address itself.

Sardar Sarup Singh : I was saying, Sir, that the election in India was looked forward to with great eagerness when the people of this country would have had an opportunity of electing their representatives and ending the almost care-taker character of administrations all over the country. But their hopes were dashed to the ground when many things came to their notice which ought not have happened. I will only draw your attention, Sir to some of the facts which are uncontroverted so far. The Returning Officer of the Ambala Parliamentary Constituency has said in his report that many unused ballot papers were found . .

Mr Speaker : I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member again and again. I regret to find that a seasoned lawyer like him has failed to take care of the words he has used. How are we concerned with the action of a Returning Officer at Ambala, or how is this criticism relevant to the Governor's Address? I have pointed out many a time that the debate on the Governor's Address is not like the debate on the budget. When you are discussing the major policy of the government you can say anything. How is the House interested in the action of a certain man here or a certain man there? You can attack the Government's policy enunciated in the Governor's Address and that is only fair and honest criticism but inaising such irrelevant matters so much time is wasted !

Sardar Sarup Singh : With your permission, Sir, I was referring to these matters only because the Governor has mentioned in the Address the holding of elections....

Mr. Speaker : You cannot say the elections were unfair. When you say so you go beyond your limit. Because if they are unfair you have certain other remedies open to you.

Sardar Sarup Singh : Unless I substantiate my allegations, it would not be worthwhile

Mr. Speaker : We do not want that such allegations are substantiated.

Sardar Sarup Singh : If I cannot quote any example, I would leave it there and ask the House to be very careful of the Bhakra Nangal Waters that we are going to get. My apprehensions are based on this, Sir, that in this Governor's regime a "Betterment Fee Act" has been passed whereby all the lands which are going to get waters from the Bhakra are liable to the imposition of a Betterment Fee. I think, Sir, many hon. Members perhaps remember that previously the Govrenment was contemplating to resort to a policy of applying a land cut instead of in posing a fee on those whose lands received benefit from the Bhakra Project. That would have made, Sir, all those jungles gold mines over-night. Now most of the evacuees from the

[S. Sarup Singh]

West Punjab are going to be deprived of that land and big landlords would get all the benefit to the extent of over one hundred crores by the levy of a 'Betterment Fee'. I think, Sir, and I want to draw the attention of the Government to this fact that if this policy is adopted and we levy a land cut on landlords this would help the rehabilitation of the evacuees from the West Pakistan. I think, Sir, these are the things to which I wanted to draw the attention of the Government.

Sardar Rajindar Singh (Rupar) (Punjabi) : Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank His Excellency the Governor for delivering his Address to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. My hon. Friends have expressed themselves fully both in favour and against the Address. After going through it very carefully and also after hearing with rapt attention the criticism advanced by the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches, I have arrived at the conclusion that my hon. Friends over there consider this Address to be a sort of a thesis on some subject. As a matter of fact what they should have done was to look at the Address in the light of the broad policies underlying various matters referred to in it. After perusing the Address I have felt that the policy of the Government is not rotten as has been stated by my hon. Friends occupying the Opposition Benches. It has been stated by them that this Address is a formal one and that no attention has been paid to the question of raising the standard of living of the people. I think my hon. Friends who hold this view are sadly mistaken. In my opinion all the schemes referred to in the Address by His Excellency when implemented will go a long way in improving the condition of the people in the State. In fact there is hardly any beneficial scheme which is not included in the Address.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention and through you the attention of the House to a few points. The development of irrigation and electric power schemes which is the crying need of the hour has already been referred to in the Address. I do not think there was any necessity to state these schemes in detail in it. But so far as the broad policy underlying these schemes is concerned, mention has already been made about it. Similarly we find references about the prevalence of scarcity condition in the district of Hissar and the steps Government have taken and would take to ease the famine conditions. It was not necessary for His Excellency the Governor to give details regarding the famine condition in Hissar district. I am of the opinion that matters like injustice, meted out to people and such other allied subjects can be discussed in detail during the coming 5 years when Bills

and other legislative measures will be brought before the House for enactment. At this stage it was not necessary for His Excellency to discuss such matters in detail.

As a matter of fact it was not necessary for the Governor to discuss details or to suggest that certain laws should be enacted. I beg to submit that consolidation of holdings is essential for the uplift and development of our State and a mention has been made of it in the address. Some hon. Members spoke about the necessity of providing passages. I wish to tell them, through you Sir, that the question of passages will be taken up along with consolidation work. Important problems like industrial development of the State and the nationalisation of transport have not failed to find a place in the Governor's address. One of my hon. Friends discussed certain details of the tenancy problem. I wish to submit, Sir, that it is for the House to enact suitable laws and to make such provisions as may help remove the difficulties of tenants. It was not the function of the Governor to place details before the House.

Similarly, our State has been the pioneer in taking measures to afford relief to political sufferers. The Government has decided on a policy in regard to them on compassionate grounds. The backward classes, too, have not been ignored.

Some hon. Members complained about the existence of corruption in the State. There can be no difference of opinion about the necessity of eradicating corruption from all Government departments. In this connection His Excellency remarked in the course of his address that no Government Officer who was dishonest or corrupt would be spared. For the information of the House, I wish to read out the relevant portion from His Excellency's address. At page 14 of the Address, it is stated.

"My government have already issued strict orders that no approaches or sifarishes, from whatever quarters they may emanate, shall be listened to or tolerated, and that there shall be no interference with the work of honest and conscientious officers. The integrity of services will be fully maintained". He also said ;—

"Corruption at all levels must be rooted out and with this end in view prompt and effective punishment must be meted out to a corrupt officer, however, highly placed he may be".

Then, Sir, in order that our State may progress, it is also necessary that the system of education should be completely revolutionised. The Governor also referred to the need of industrial education for the development of the State. This should be based on the basic education scheme.

[Sardar Rajinder Singh]

In the end, Sir, I thank you for affording me an opportunity of expressing my views. With these words I support the motion of thanks to the Governor.

Shri Teg Ram (Khuian Sarwar) (Hindi) : Sir, I am thankful to the Governor for the concern evinced by him in the course of his address, for the tenant in this State. These people are suffering great hardships and their case calls for immediate consideration. However, I do not agree with his observation, that necessary steps in that connection have already been taken. He was evidently referring to the Act of 1951 according to which some facilities had been given to the tenants. When the defects in that Bill were brought to the notice of the Parliament at the time of its discussion, it was stated by the Government that the Punjab Assembly would soon be elected and that it would be up to it to make the necessary amendments in it. It clearly shows that the necessity of providing more relief to the tenants was realised by everybody. Recently our Government constituted a committee consisting of fourteen members for suggesting improvements in the Punjab Occupancy tenants Act, 1951. It is obvious that the Act in question is regarded as inadequate. According to that Act the area of land which a landlord could keep for himself had been reduced from one hundred to fifty standard acres. This will give no relief to the tenants because according to the Act if a landlord wishes to cultivate himself with the help of a tractor, he can eject a large number of his tenants. The mere reduction of ones holding from one hundred to fifty standard acres will be of no practical help. Moreover, in the last three or four years, rather in the last three months all the big landlords in the State have split up their holdings and got fifty acres transferred in the names of each of their children, sisters, wives and other relations. Such transfers have been got made even in the names of those children who are only two or three years old. In fact, only one person owns the entire land but in the records it stands in the names of ten or twelve persons. So long as such defects exist in the law, the condition of tenants cannot improve.

In the second place, it has been provided in the tenancy legislation that a tenant holding land for five years or more cannot be ejected. As a matter of fact, the names of tenants do not appear in the revenue records. Even if this limit were raised from five to fifty years, still the tenants could be easily ejected. Seventy five per cent of the tenants who have been holding lands since before 1947 have already been ejected. The big landlords of the Punjab are resorting to various devices for ejecting tenants. The provisions

of the present Act provide no relief to the tenants. What the landlords do is that they keep the Patwaris pleased and do not let the names of tenants appear in their records.

In this way, they call the tenant only a partner having half the share and the assessment (Girdawari) of the land revenue and the water rates is made in the name of the owner of the land and not in the name of the tenant. Since the tenant is usually an illiterate person, the landowner gets his thumb impression on a blank paper at the time of the leasing out of the land. And then afterwards he puts whatever date or terms of lease he likes on that paper.

An hon. Member : Is the hon. Member discussing the Tenancy Act or the Governor's Address ?

Shri Teg Ram : I am discussing the present Tenancy Act to which His Excellency the Governor referred in his Address. Under one pretext or the other, the landowners are ejecting the tenants and are starting cultivation of land by means of tractors. Besides as I have already stated, there is no mention of the names of the tenants in the records of the Patwaris. It is through such devices that the landowners use to eject the poor tenants from the lands.

Next I come to the provision in the Act with regard to the one third share of the landowners. It is a pity that there is no provision with regard to the payment of land revenue or water charges in the Act. It has not been definitely provided as to who should pay these charges. The result is that the landowners are putting the burden of these charges on the tenants. Besides, the landowners are getting more than one third share of the produce. I have seen with my own eyes that they are getting one half share instead of one third as has been provided in the Act. I, therefore, submit that this Act like the previous ones falls short of the requirements of the situation. The only solution of this problem is the abolition of the Zamindari system. Mere patch work will not solve it. But if it is not properly solved, the wrath of the people as Kabir says, will tear the heavens in such a way that nobody on the surface of the earth will be able to bring it together. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Now only a short time is left. I will, therefore, call upon one Member from the Opposition side to speak.

Sardar Shamsher Singh (Ludbiana Sadar) (Punjabi) : Sir, after going through the Governor's Address a man in the street gets a glimpse of the New Punjab. The achievement of this New Punjab depends on the completion of the Bhakhra Project. For this purpose we need two things, namely, money and foreign machinery. Even if we succeed in getting the necessary funds from the Government of India, we shall still be in need of

[Sardar Shamsheer Singh]

foreign machinery the import of which depends on the international situation. So this factor introduces quite a lot of uncertainty in the matter of the completion of Bhakhra Projects. And then this uncertainty is accentuated by the fact that the Government goes on extending the time limit for its completion. At first the limit was 1955, then it was extended to 1957 and later on to 1959. During all this long period, the Government will not pay any attention to smaller schemes. If unfortunately the dream of the Bhakhra Project does not materialise, there will be left no hope for our State. The Government, I think, is committing a blunder by concentrating all its attention on the Bhakhra Project alone. It should do well to start other small schemes also. The Governor, has, no doubt, described this Project in beautiful words. But there is a lot of uncertainty about it. The Government party, I am afraid, will ask for votes on the basis of the Bhakhra Project once again at the time of the next elections. They will tell the people that they are building Bhakhra Dam. In this way, this scheme will remain only a scheme for a long time to come.

The Governor said one good thing in his Address. That is with regard to the nationalisation of text books and for this, I think, I should congratulate him. (cheers) In this connection, I may point out that the publishers have fleeced the public quite a good deal so far. Since long we have been hearing that our system of education is faulty. But the pity of it is that even after the achievement of independence, nothing has been done to set it right. This year 34,000 students have passed the Matriculation examination. The Government will be able to give technical education to 2,000 students at the most while the rest after going about in the colleges for some time, will swell the ranks of the unsocial elements in the country and the Government will have to recruit more police for keeping peace. The system of education should be changed as soon as possible; this is the crying need of the hour.

Another big problem raised by the Government is that of the nationalisation of transport. The operation of the passenger transport was started years ago by a class of people who purchased lorries after selling their small tracts of land. At that time they were ridiculed by the "Lalas". Now that their efforts are going to bear fruit, the Government is looking with greedy eyes towards their business. I may point out that there is a good deal of discontent among the public against this proposed nationalisation of transport. There are many other trades which can be nationalised for instance industry, insurance companies, Banking and Press. (cheers) The Government is doing what it should not and it is not doing what should be done.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Saturday, the 10th May, 1952.

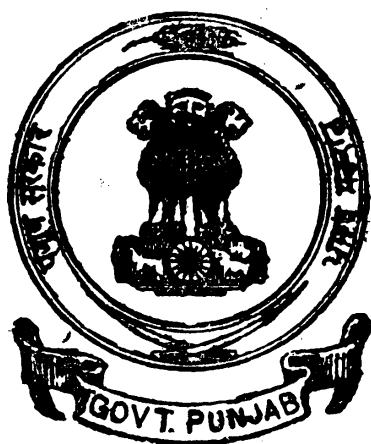
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

10th MAY 1952.

Vol. I—No. 4.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

SATURDAY, 10TH MAY, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SHIFTING OF GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS TO CHANDIGARH.

***8. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the date by which Government propose shifting its Headquarters to Chandigarh ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Government are very keen to shift their headquarters to Chandigarh as early as possible. Move of the Camp Offices of Government would be effected in the next winter though for a short period. Thereafter as more and more accommodation becomes available, more offices, would be gradually shifted. The shifting of the headquarters permanently to Chandigarh depends upon the completion of the Secretariat building, of which the final plans are under preparation. The construction of this building would take about two years. It may, therefore, be possible to shift permanently the headquarters of Government to Chandigarh in winter 1954—55.

Shri Ram Kishan : What does the hon. Chief Minister mean by the expression 'as early as possible' ?

Chief Minister : The same as given in the dictionary.
(Laughter).

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know which of the offices will move down during the coming winter months ?

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend is an experienced Parliamentarian. He should know that I require notice for this question.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Will the Government be able to hold its Budget Session of 1953 at Chandigarh ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a hypothetical question. The reply given by the hon. Chief Minister to the original question is quite clear. Next question please.

NAWANSHAHR COMMUNITY PROJECT.

*7. **Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the purpose and scope of the Nawanshahr Community Project;

(b) the expenditure involved in this Project ?

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kalron :

(a)—Part (i) Like all other Rural Community Projects in the country, the central object of the Nawanshahr Community Project is to secure the fullest development of the material and human resources of this area resulting primarily in raising the standard of living. The main lines of activity which would be undertaken would comprise of the following :—

(a) Agricultural and Rural Development;

(b) Cottage and Small Scale Industries;

(c) Education;

(d) Health;

(e) Housing; and

(f) Communication.

Part (ii) In so far as the scope of the said project is concerned, it would consist of three development blocks and each such block would consist of about 100 villages. The exact details would, however, only be worked out after the preliminary survey of the area has been carried out.

(b) According to the present proposal the estimated expenditure involved in the Project comes to Rs. 65,00,000 spread over a period of three years.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know whether Project Officers and Assistant Project Officers to be recruited for this Project will be officials or non-officials ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the main question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know what steps are being taken by the Government to secure maximum unofficial support of the people in that area?

Minister : Unofficial support is essential for the development of this project and it will be taken when the time comes.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister please tell us what kind of support is being canvassed for the purpose and what steps are being taken to secure it ?

Minister : It is too early to say anything in the matter.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : May I know if any project of this type is being extended to other places in the border districts of the State ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the main question.

Minister : With your permission, Sir, I may point out that one such project has been extended to Batala. This is a border district project.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is the Government contemplating any change in the scope of this rural community project ?

Minister : No, please.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How does the hon. Minister propose to distribute the sanctioned amount of Rs. 65,00,000/- during three years ?

Minister : This will be distributed in three instalments.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know if any one has been selected for receiving training in this connection in the United States ?

Minister : Not yet, Sir.

Captain Ranjit Singh : What are the principles taken into consideration for the selection of these project areas ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether any Development Commissioner has been appointed incharge of the project; if so, who?

Minister : This does not arise out of this question.

Minister for Projects : May I know why the hon. Member is so interested in that individual officer ? *(Laughter)*.

Mr. Speaker : Next question please.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.

DEATH AND DISEASE AMONGST CATTLE IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

*15. **Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any measures have recently been taken by the Government to save cattle from death and disease in the famine stricken area of the Hissar District; if so, particulars of such measures and the dates when they were taken ?

The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

First Part. Yes.

Second Part. (i) Sanction to the opening of 8 Concentration Camps for cattle was accorded on the 24th April, 1952, at a cost of Rs. 4,23,910/-.

(ii) Rs. 15,000/- were sanctioned on the 22nd April, 1952, for the maintenance of non-District Board stud bulls and Rs. 25,000/- as subsidy for the maintenance of District Board stud bulls were sanctioned on the 28th March, 1952.

(iii) Concession in the railway freight is being allowed to the importers of fodder into the affected areas since October last from other districts, and from other States since November, 1951.

(iv) Ponds were filled with canal water. The position was last reviewed on the 21st April, 1952.

(v) A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs has already been sanctioned and distributed as fodder taccavi during April in Hissar district. More funds have been provided for distribution as fodder, seed and bullock taccavi during the current and the ensuing months.

(vi) More money is being sanctioned shortly.

Captain Ranjit Singh : May I know as to how many cattle have so far been brought in the eight concentration camps sanctioned by the Government ?

Minister : At four places. I myself saw that about 1,000 cattle have been collected.

An hon. Member : How many cattle have so far died ?

Minister : It is very difficult to form an estimate. I can, how-

[Minister for Development]

ever, give some information to the hon. Member. In Hissar tehsil, the total strength of cattle according to the census was 81,952. Out of this number 4,787 deaths were noted and 15,930 were sold out in other districts. In Kohala tehsil the number of cattle was 28,876 out of which 1,078 died and 15,852 were sold out. In Hansi tehsil the total number of cattle was 37,591 out of which 4,845 died and 23,000 were sold out. In Bhiwani tehsil 9,191 died and 15,563 were sold out. In Fatehabad tehsil, total number was 18,707 out of which 5,202 died and 10,000 were sold out. In Sirsa tehsil, the total number was 80,473 out of which 2,347 died while 12,671 were sold out.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that in famine area there are many people who are unable to get any work and that they cannot even join service on account of age restriction and so they are compelled to eke out their living under difficult conditions ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat : Is it not a fact that many animals are going out of the area affected by the scarcity conditions ?

Minister : But who can check it ?

Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat : When were these concentration camps opened ?

Minister : On the fifth, sixth and eighth of this month.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta : Has the Government made any arrangements for the supply of fodder to the affected area ?

Minister : We are trying our utmost in the matter. One lakh ninety thousand permits have been issued. Fodder is being brought from Madhya Pradesh. Seventy-eight wagons of dried grass and thirty wagons of chaff are being brought. As a matter of fact we are trying to bring as much fodder as we can to relieve the scarcity conditions prevailing in the area. (*Cheers*)

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Speaker : Honourable Members ! the procedure for the election of the Deputy Speaker is similar to that for the election of the Speaker. Proposals duly seconded will be made one by one. Then they will be put to vote in the order in which they were made provided that if a proposal is carried the subsequent proposals will not be put to the House. If only one proposal is made then the person proposed will be deemed to have been elected unanimously.

Minister for Capital Project : (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) : I propose the name of Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon for Deputy Speakership.

Minister for Local Government : (The hon. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) : I second the proposal.

Mr. Speaker : Any other proposal please ?

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) : I propose the name of Sardar Partap Singh Rai (of Guru Har Sahai) for Deputy Speakership.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) : I second the proposal.

Mr. Speaker : Now there are two motions before the House. Honourable Members in favour of and against the first motion should respectively rise in their seats. First those in favour may please rise. Now those against. I declare Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon elected as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. (*Cheers*).

Mr. Speaker : I congratulate Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon on his election as Deputy Speaker of this honourable House. Sardar Gurdial Singh has been known to me for a long time. In his ilaqe he has been working honestly for the Congress and I know that, in his public life, he has worked and suffered for the good of the masses. I am sure that, as Deputy Speaker, he will prove his worth. I once again congratulate him on his election to this office.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Chief Minister (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move :—

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned sine die.

The motion was carried.

DISCUSSIONS OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Mr. Speaker : Before I ask the House to resume discussion on the Governor's Address I would like to refer to an incident which has been weighing heavily on my mind since yesterday. The hon. Members know what Shri Sri Chand said yesterday in his speech. He remarked that the Englishman was dead but he had not gone or died issueless. The present Government, he said, was following in the footsteps of the previous British regime. Whatever the literal or metaphorical meaning of his remarks may be the words which he used are objectionable and since yesterday they have been preying on my mind. I feel that it is below the dignity of this honourable House that such words should be uttered here. I give the hon. Member an opportunity to withdraw those remarks otherwise I will have to expunge the same from the proceedings of the Assembly. It does not appear proper to say that the Englishman has left behind an issue. The hon. Member should have thought of the friendly and cordial diplomatic relations that subsist between the two countries. We have in our country the Ambassador of the British Government and our Ambassador is in England. In view of this I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw the remarks in question otherwise I will be compelled to give a ruling on this matter.

Shri Sri Chand : (Bahadurgarh) : Sir, I withdraw those words as directed by you. I also wish to make it clear that I never meant to say that the Congress Party was the child of the British.

Mr. Speaker : When you have withdrawn the words 'the English man was dead' then the question of putting forward any justification for those words does not arise.

Shri Sri Chand : As ordered by you, Sir, I have withdrawn my words but I wish to make my position clear.

Mr. Speaker : After you have withdrawn these words, the question of any clarification of your position does not arise.

Minister for Capital Project : Do it with grace !

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, my intention in using the words 'the English man was dead' was that he had gone.

Minister for Capital Project : Sir, probably he wants to say what he meant yesterday.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should now proceed with his speech and should not refer to the words that he has withdrawn.

Shri Sri Chand : In support of the amendment moved by me, I submit, Sir, that the Government should cut down its expenditure on administration. It is common knowledge that large amounts are being squandered away on the sheer observance of certain formalities. I have great respect for the Governor and I feel that if he feels disposed he can curtail a lot of expenditure on many items. To keep so many of the police guard with him is a luxury in the changed political conditions of the time. Now there is no necessity of keeping a lorry load of police guards in front of and behind the Governor's car. The strength of Police guard can be safely reduced. I am of the view that the hon. Ministers and the Governor as the constitutional head of a popular Government like this need not keep police guards for their protection. At the most one Constable is sufficient. I submit, Sir, that a big police guard is not a necessity but it is kept to satisfy the sense of vanity at public cost.

The police is sent to public meetings to make reports. It is also a useless practice and adds to unnecessary expenditure. These are old practices of the British regime. I request my hon. friends occupying the Treasury Benches to give up these traditions.

The hon. Ministers should work with the spirit that they are servants of the public. I feel that only five Ministers can run the Government quite efficiently and the expenditure can be curtailed by reducing the number of Ministers from eight to five. The hon. Ministers should also give up touring, because in my opinion, by working in their offices, they will be able to run the Government more efficiently. Moreover, by doing so they will save a lot of unnecessary expenditure. Similarly public money can also be saved by retrenching certain redundant posts of secretaries, deputy secretaries and superintendents. The system of maintaining double record in courts has also become out of date. We can safely replace this system by the single record system and thus save a lot of expenditure.

For giving proper consideration to these suggestions, I would suggest to the hon. Chief Minister that he should constitute a committee.

Then, Government should give serious thought to the possibility of relaxing controls, though strictly speaking, it is the business

[Shri Sri Chand]

of the Central Government. The controls are a curse and even Mahatma Gandhi considered them so. I think now the time has come when these can be done away with. It needs no mention that the people are experiencing great difficulties as a result of these controls. I hope Government will do something tangible in this direction. Sir, through you I want to impress upon the Government that the tiller of the soil has been hit hard on account of the increased water rates. The Government had raised these rates when wheat was selling at Rs. 17/- or 18/- a maund. I think that if it has any sympathy for the poor zamindars, it should take immediate steps to bring about reduction in Abiana and thus afford relief to them.

Now I come to another point. Under the Sales Tax Act, only those shopkeepers who have an out turn of rupees twenty thousand or more are liable to pay this tax to Government. This is in fact a purchase tax, which is charged by the shopkeepers and paid into the Government Treasury. But it is common knowledge that even a petty shopkeeper is charging this tax from the public and the amount thus realised is not going into Government Treasury. I request the Government that some check should be placed on this practice.

The hon. Members will be surprised to note that there are only two shopkeepers in Simla, who are paying Sales Tax to the Government while the rest are not paying any thing, whereas they are charging this tax from the public on their sales.

With these words, Sir, I would request the Government that they should give due consideration to my suggestions and bring about a reduction in its expenditure.

Sardar Achhar Singh : (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) On a point of order, Sir, I want to know whether the same procedure will be observed to-day in the matter of debate as was followed yesterday.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the hon. Members desirous of making a speech to confine themselves to the discussion of Governor's Address; otherwise there is no restriction. Every hon. Member is welcome to participate in the debate. The procedure regarding conduct of debate will remain the same as we followed yesterday.

Sardar Achhar Singh : On a point of order, Sir,

Mr. Speaker : I don't think there remains any need for raising any point of order now.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, I want to say that the convention has been such.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member cannot enter into any argument with the Chair. I know for myself that according to the past practice one day is reserved for Members for the discussion of Governor's Address. Yesterday no Minister took part in the debate and therefore, they will be given priority to-day. So according to today's programme, the hon. Members will speak upto 11—30 a. m. After that the hon. Chaudhri Lehri Singh will speak for half an hour. Then from 12:00 to 12:30 Members occupying the Opposition benches will be given an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject. From 12:30 to 1:00 p. m. the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon will deliver his speech. In the end the hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar will reply to the speeches from 1:00 to 1:40 p. m. made by the Members. After that voting on amendments and the main motion will take place.

As the number of Members desirous of speaking is very large and since it will be my endeavour to accommodate everybody, I request the Members to strictly confine themselves to the discussion on the motion before the House. They should only discuss the general policy underlying the Address and make some definite suggestions. In this way every Member will be able to express himself within five minutes and thus all the Members desirous of participating in the debate will be able to get an opportunity to do so.

Shri Mohd. Yasin Khan. (Ferozepur-Jhirka) (*Hindi*) : Sir, after going through the Address, delivered by His Excellency the Governor I find that mention of some important matters has altogether been omitted. So I want to draw the attention of the Government towards them in the hope that the same will receive its careful attention.

I represent the backward district of Gurgaon. I maintain that this part of the country has all along been neglected by the previous Government and that no proper attention has ever been paid towards its development. For instance, there is no mention of our district in the five year development plan. Now most of the large villages

[Shri Mohd Yasin Khan]

have been connected by metalled roads, yet there is no metalled road in the Gurgaon District. I, therefore, cannot help saying that the five year development plan is nothing but a bundle of pious wishes which will perhaps never be fulfilled. It requires a lot of patience to wait and see whether the schemes mentioned in it will ever take a practical shape. We have been waiting patiently all along. But there is a limit to everything and now we are fed up with this state of affairs.

If we go from Delhi to Gurgaon by road, the road itself indicates that territory of some other State has started, as the width of the road goes on decreasing. Then, all the canals of our district come from the side of Utter Pradesh. If you happen to go to the East of Jamuna Canals you will see green gardens there but the parched lands of our district are without any sort of vegetation. There is a great scarcity of water in this district and at some places even drinking water is not available and people are put to a great deal of hardship on that account. It is regrettable that the Government has not made any arrangement of water supply for irrigating the lands of poor peasants of this area.

Now I come to Rehabilitation. I submit that Government has failed to solve this problem satisfactorily. Despite the fact that ours is a backward district, refugees from the backward districts now comprised in Pakistan, have been rehabilitated here. The lands have been allotted piecemeal with the result that very often the land allotted to the same refugee at different places are separated by the distance of 50 miles and thus the poor refugees cannot look after them properly. In Faridabad township no arrangement exists for housing the refugees. I am constrained to remark that the Government has failed to realise that although lands have been allotted to the refugees in lieu of their lands left in Pakistan, yet they need houses to shelter their families and themselves. I submit that Government should take steps to make allotment of houses to them as well; otherwise it would be better if it plainly tells them that it is not going to make any allotment of houses.

Besides this, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to a matter of vital importance and that is that the Rehabilitation Department has done nothing to alleviate the distress of the displaced Muslims. The hon. Chief Minister is not in his seat. So I would earnestly request the hon. Sardar Partap Singh to look into this matter. I would impress upon the Government the desirability of treating the Muslim nationals of India at par with the other people. The property of those Muslims who did not migrate to Pakistan, or returned from Pakistan before the permit system, should be restored to them. The property of my friend Maulana Habibul-Rehman of Ludhiana has not been restored to him; even I have not been given back my house as yet. Now if a Muslim comes to India without a permit, Government is justified in dealing with him under the law. But the Muslims who had not gone to Pakistan at all or the returnees from Pakistan before the permit system should be given possession of their houses and lands as citizens of this State. As a matter of fact the displaced Muslims have spent five years of exile without food, cloth, and shelter. Well, Sir, this is the state of affairs, so far as rehabilitation of displaced persons in this State is concerned. I would, therefore, again request the Government to speedily redress the genuine grievances of displaced Muslims and other refugees satisfactorily.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : (Ludhiana Sadar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, a commendable reference that has been made in the inaugural address of His Excellency the Governor is with regard to the consolidation of holdings of land. Sometime back the hon. Minister for Development addressed a public meeting in my ilaqa and in the course of his speech he emphatically remarked that he would see that the consolidation of holdings was completed in about four years instead of eight years. If he fulfills this promise he will indeed be rendering a yeoman's service to the peasants.

Shri Nand Lal : May I know if the hon. Members who spoke yesterday also can be allotted time today ?

Mr. Speaker : This is for me to decide.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : Now I will say something about the Grow-More-Food Campaign. There is no denying the fact that there is a shortage of food in our country. It is, therefore, necessary that we should make earnest efforts to develop our agriculture and

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industry. Agriculture and industry are the two wheels of the chariot of society. Both must pull together. If one of them breaks, the chariot stops. There is, therefore, an urgent need for providing electricity to industries if we want to step up production in the State. We have seen that in the Grow-More-Food Campaign a good deal of attention has been paid by the Government towards the recruitment of officers in that department. Besides this, if the huge bulk of electricity which at present is being wasted on fans, cooling plants, heaters and light etc., were given to the peasants in the rural areas, it would have produced wonderful results. The electricity would have proved a veritable boon for the peasants who could bring thousands of acres of land under the plough. It is an irony of fate that India which is an agricultural country has to import food from foreign countries. The reason is that the Government do not provide any facilities to the zamindars and is indifferent to their welfare. They continue to groan under the crushing weight of poverty. With their poor material resources, they cannot satisfy their primary needs. In spite of this our Government prefers to import wheat from foreign countries at higher prices but feels reluctant to pay more to our peasants.

Mr. Speaker : I have allowed you today a few minutes as the Assembly adjourned yesterday when you were still on your legs.

Sardar Shamsheer Singh : Sir, I will only take a few minutes more and then resume my seat. I remember that when the sugar cane crop of zamindars was ready last year they were faced with a great difficulty. Sugar mill owners looted the peasants and did not pay them the fixed rate i.e. Rs 1/12/- per maund. The Cane Commissioner also helped the factory owners in this loot by closing loading of sugar cane at various stations as it suited the mill owners. The people who carried sugar cane on trucks to factories, were given eight annas per maund with which they could hardly meet the transport charges.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Member cannot criticize the officer who is not directly under the control of the State Government.

Sardar Shamsheer Singh : Sir, now I would like to draw the

attention of the House to the top-heavy administration of the Government. The fat salaries of the high officers are a great burden on the slender finances of the State. We do not want officers on the top, who may rule over us, but only such who function strictly for the benefit of the State. I would, however suggest that an officer's salary should in no case exceed Rs. 500/- per mensem

Shri Nand Lal (Karnal) (*Hindi*): Sir, yesterday I could not avail of the opportunity to speak for 10 minutes and now I think I shall not be able to speak at length on the inaugural Address of His Excellency the Governor within five minutes which have been given to me. However, I will confine myself only to one point which is of vital interest to our friends. I am thankful to His Excellency that he has thought it fit to make a mention of the political sufferers who made great sacrifices in the struggle for independence. But what I find is that the extent of relief that has been afforded to them is quite insignificant as compared with the heavy price that they had to pay for the freedom of their country. The Political Sufferers' Relief Fund was started by the previous Government sometime ago with a contribution of Rs. 30,000/- but the present Government has shown great magnanimity, as it were, in raising this amount to Rs. 50,000/-. It is just possible that the next Government may consider it unnecessary and may not make any contribution to it at all. It goes without saying that these political sufferers have made tremendous sacrifices in the cause of the country and it is because of those sacrifices that our friends find themselves sitting on the Treasury Benches today. In this connection, the instance of Shri Kirpa Ram may be cited. Such people sacrificed their all so that our country may be free. But today they are steeped in misery and have not the means to buy even the bare necessities of life. During the pre-independence days these people faced bullets and their womenfolk were subjected to great indignities and insults. Despite the fact that they have been reduced to abject poverty our Government has done nothing substantial for them. What we find today is that whereas privileges and other concessions are being given to the military people the political sufferers have not been held out even a faint gleam of hope by the Government that measures will be adopted to enable them to eke out their living.

An hon. Member : Can the hon. Member attack the military personnel ?

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member that he should not make any criticism of military officers.

An hon Member : He should be asked to withdraw his remarks.

Mr. Speaker : I would again ask the hon. Member that he should not criticise the military officers against whom there is no complaint.

Shri Nand Lal : Sir, what I wanted to say is that the civil officers who worked during the British regime are being given every concession.

Mr. Speaker : They are also part and parcel of this Government, so the hon. Member should not pass any remarks against them.

Shri Nand Lal : Sir, I think I have not made any remark against them but if you think I did I am prepared to withdraw them. What I want to drive at is that while the civil and military officers are enjoying all concessions during this regime, the political sufferers who are in abjectly straitened circumstances continue to suffer and the Government is not giving any financial assistance to them. I am not talking of Congress workers only but all those who had made sacrifices in the cause of the country. May I ask the Government what action it has taken to provide employment to these people? I wish the hon. Ministers had fully realised the difficulties in which they find themselves enmeshed today. They cannot get any permit or any other concession from the Government. If at all they manage to get any permit issued in their favour they are maligned and vilified. They cannot get their educated children employed in Government departments, and if at all they succeed, their sons are looked upon as C. I. D. people. The Government may, therefore, judge how cheerless and hopeless does life appear to them. I would again urge that the nationalists who have suffered so much in the past should now be given a square deal.

Shri Guran Dass Hans (Hoshiarpur) (Hindi) : Sir, I was surprised to hear from my friends sitting opposite that elections had not been held properly and fairly. It is my conviction that elections have

been conducted in such a fine manner that we can rightly feel proud of it. In the past elections, votes used to be secured through intimidation and other unfair means. The poorer sections of the community especially the Harijans used to be molested and harassed by influential and mighty people or their election agents. This time, the elections have not been allowed to be marred by such dirty tactics, thanks to the vigilance of the Governor.

I am, however, sorry to find that the question of amelioration of the lot of the Harijans has not been dealt with at any great length by His Excellency in his Address. We are grateful to him for creating conditions in which our brethren could exercise their votes freely but I would submit that much needs to be done to give the poor Harijan his rightful status as a citizen of this country. More facilities especially to get education should be afforded to them. Only then they will be able to rise in the social scale.

Chand Ram Ahlawat (Jhajjar) (Hindi) : Sir, we are now discussing the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address. If it were just a formal motion of thanks I might have supported it. But to my mind it is not the case. If we support it, we would be creating the impression that we are satisfied with the few words of solace that the Address contains about our down-trodden community. How can we be satisfied with only this assurance that the Government propose to safeguard and promote the interests of the members of the scheduled castes when the fact of the matter is that their condition has further deteriorated since the advent of independence (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*). Though I am a member of the ministerial party, I have no hesitation in saying that there has been no improvement in their condition since 1947. This does not mean that I don't feel grateful for whatever has been done for the betterment of the lot of Harijans, but it is my conviction that the time has come for the Government to shake off its belief in the efficacy of evolution and to start having faith in the methods of revolution. (*Loud cheers from Opposition Benches*)

A few words more and I have done. The deteriorating relations between the zamindars and the Harijans are the subject of my amendment. Sir, during and after the elections which are said to have passed off peacefully, a regular 'cold war' was and is being carried on by the Zaminders against the Harijans in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is over.

Shri Badlu Ram (Kalanaur) (Hindi) : Sir, while thanking His Excellency for his Address, I would like to invite the attention of this House to a few important matters which have not found any place in the address. To my mind, the first important omission is the lack of any reference to 'abiana'. Water rates were enhanced last year and this enhancement, it was stated, was justified in view of the high prices of agricultural produce. Today the level of prices is not the same. The poor peasants have been hit hard by the prevailing slump Gur which then sold at Rs. 21/- a maund is selling at Rs. 7/- or Rs. 8/- a maund. Is it not time to bring down the rate of 'abiana' to the previous level? If this Government is really anxious to better the lot of the poor and backward ruralities, why has it not announced reductions in the rate of 'Abiana' ?

Secondly, nothing has been done to expedite the scheme of giving irrigation facilities through tube wells. This work has been entrusted to a British firm and there is no knowing when, if at all, pumping sets will be installed. People are becoming sceptical about the implementation of this scheme.

No doubt the consolidation work has started but, I am afraid, this department is not working satisfactorily. To a peasant, nothing is dearer than land which is his source of livelihood. If in place of good, productive land, he gets land of inferior quality, it will make the greatest difference to his lot.

Mr. Speaker : One minutes, more.

Shri Badlu Ram : All right, Sir. Formerly, when Sardar Partap Singh Kairon was incharge of Civil Supplies Department it had the worst reputation. Now he is incharge of Consolidation Department which enjoys a none too good reputation. It is an irony of fate. (Cheers from Opposition Benches)

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Chaudhri Lehri Singh) (Hindi) : Well, Sir, Governor's Address has been subjected to a good deal of criticism so far as Bhakra Nangal Project is concerned. The hon. Members are sceptical as to whether the Government would be able to complete the work as scheduled. It has been made out that the plans prepared by the Government generally do not take a practical shape, and that they remain merely paper schemes. I admit that this has been the case in the past and their grievances

are genuine in this respect. There is no other department which is more criticized than the Irrigation Branch. Procrastination is the disease from which it has had to suffer and the general public is put to great inconvenience. Even a small project that can be completed in a month's time takes years for its completion. The public has, therefore, formed the opinion that this department has no sympathy for them and the officers manage things in their own way and in a manner which suits their particular whims. As a matter of fact if we take into account the past record of the department the impression seems to be justified. This creates doubts in the minds of the Members of the House whether the Bhakra scheme will at all be completed by 1956 or 1957. They argue that whenever His Excellency's Address is to be read and the elections are to be won, the party in power brings forth the Bhakra stunt, so that they may win over the Zamindars and thus gag the mouth of Opposition Party. But the fact is quite the reverse. Previously it was the intention of the Government to entrust the Bhakra Dam Scheme to some foreign firm for execution on a contract basis. Consequently engineers from France and other countries were interviewed. Now on the successful completion of this project depends the prosperity of the Punjab, but if this project end in fiasco the whole of the Punjab State may meet with an unprecedented disaster. It is the second biggest dam in the world and there are only two countries, namely, France and America which possess the technique of building dams. Well, Sir, after surveying the whole situation the Central as well as the State Governments came to the conclusion that our own engineers were in no way inferior to those of other countries. This view was supported by the fact that when a post of a Chief Engineer fell vacant in U. N. O., it was offered to an Engineer of the Punjab Government. But since at that time no Chief Engineer could be spared, the services of a Superintending Engineer were placed at the disposal of the United Nations. Now that gentleman is drawing his salary to the tune of Rs. 8000 p. m. But an ill-luck would have it, our Engineers did not have any experience in dam construction. The United States of America which has the reputation of having experts in this respect was approached. Mr. Slocum whose name has been mentioned in the Address is, perhaps, the highest authority on the construction of high dams. It took us a very long time to secure his services. He has started his work and presented a scheme for the procurement of technical personnel and equipment from abroad. Now the experts have been recruited from various places and the work is being pushed

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ahead. I have nothing more to add on the subject as I have thrown sufficient light on it. However, it is hoped that much headway would be made by the end of June next. In this connection I may point out that I have a mind to take some of the hon. Members round the site of the work in March next. Previously we were mainly confronted with two difficulties, one in obtaining technical experts and the other in procuring funds. Both of these difficulties have now been solved—Experts are available and sufficient funds have been placed at our disposal. Now God willing it would be possible to make the stored waters partially available to zamindars for irrigation purposes before the expiry of our term of office. Well, Sir, the Dam would be a source of perennial water supply. Even in the dry months of winter, water would be made available. It is no exaggeration to say that the waters released by this dam would soon convert even the famine stricken area of Hissar into such surplus areas in foodgrains as would surpass the glory of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts of the United Punjab.

Well, Sir, on the completion of the Bhakra Nangal Schemes, which are in hand, if the water is available by 1956, then as I have already stated we would be able to turn the lands of Hissar into smiling fields. So far as the canals are concerned, I need not dilate much upon this subject as the hon. Members coming from Ludhiana Hissar and other places—to be benefited from those canals—must have seen for themselves, the progress that has been made in the excavation works. The details of the schemes worked out by Government for the excavation of these canals, will be placed before the hon. Members of this august House in the shape of charts. I however, assure the House that the government is straining every nerve to get these canals completed at the very earliest possible. At present, it is not possible for me to mention all the minute details, but I hope that by the ensuing Budget Session of June, I would be in a position to supply all the necessary information in this respect. It may be stated that the Government has no intention to do anything without taking the House into its confidence. As a matter of fact it aims at carrying out all its policies with the active co-operation of and in consultation with all the hon. Members of this House. I will also, in due course, let you know:—

- (a) when a particular canal is going to be dug;
- (b) when it is likely to be completed; and
- (c) when the water will be made available.

I wonder if any other government will ever care to make public such important details, but we believe in placing our cards on the table. I, therefore, submit, that if the Government fails to honour its promises, then the hon. Members will be at liberty to condemn it or change it. But in the meanwhile I request that the House should bear with us and give us a chance to prove our worth. I would ask my hon. friends and colleagues to forget the past and start with a clean slate. I assure the House, Sir, that Government will not rest till water is made available from the Bhakra project within the scheduled time. (cheers).

Then, Sir, many of my hon. Friends have complained that Government has failed to give serious consideration to the plight of the people of famine-stricken areas. My hon. Friend Captain Ranjit Singh has also made a reference to this effect. At the same time some of my hon. Friends have alluded to our government's negligence in the matter of uplift of Harijans and backward classes. They complained that the Harijans had not been employed in the works connected with irrigation schemes. I may submit that, so far as the digging of canals is concerned, this is mainly due to the strenuous efforts of labour that much progress has been achieved. The hon. Members will be pleased to note that large sums of money spent on the excavation of canals and construction of canal roads have been paid to the Harijans and labourers and not to big contractors. We realise the crying need of the hour is that this money should go to the labourers who actually work and not to those who merely supervise and suck the blood of others. For this purpose labour on cooperative lines has been organised and most of this work is done through these cooperatives societies. Here I may point out that it is the policy of the government that it negotiates terms with such societies alone when it stands in need of any labour. The group leader, who undertakes to get in hand the required work, gets a certain percentage of the total wages while the rest of the amount is shared by the labourers among themselves. But where such agencies do not exist at present, the Government has no other alternative but to entrust the work to contractors. It will, therefore, be

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seen that we are following a policy that the works involving crores of rupees be undertaken only by the non-proprietors so that the labourers and Harijans be benefited to the utmost.

Regarding Hissar famine, I would like to tell the House that I myself and my colleague, Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Minister for Development, have visited the drought-affected areas. Besides other things we found that at some places injustice was being done to the labourers engaged in the work of digging. The House will be interested to note that we took action on the spot and the defaulters were taken to task. We are keen that the whole of the digging work should be accomplished through Harijans and labourers and not through the agency of millionaires and contractors.

Taking all the above factors into consideration I would request the hon. Members that they should not criticise the Government till they have received the charts, already referred to by me and have thoroughly examined them. By June, I am confident, I would be able to apprise the House of the progress made during this period and after that the hon. Members would be justified to criticise.

Some thing more regarding the Dam. A lot of machinery is needed for this project which cannot be procured easily. We have to go to different places for its procurement. In this connection it may be stated that some time ago it was considered that the Punjab Government could not efficiently manage the workshop at Amritsar. The proposal that the management of this workshop be handed over to the Railway Authorities was also being seriously considered. Since this is the biggest workshop in the Punjab, we want to make the best use of it. It goes without saying that we need much more machinery than what is manufactured in this workshop and, this being the case we have to import it from other countries like Germany, France, America etc. Now this machinery is not procured simply by placing direct orders with the firms concerned. Our experts go to the place where it is available and get the best at the spot. Besides this, many more experts are being engaged with a view to eliminating any chances of delay in the completion of the project. But so far as the work regarding the Nangal water supply scheme is concerned it is in full swing I would ask the hon. Members to forget the past when, I admit, certain lapses did occur but now I assure you, Sir,

that our government is determined to execute all its plans in good faith and with as much expeditiousness as possible. Not only this. We shall keep every hon. Member in touch with the progress of the Bhakra and Nangal Projects. I think they should rather go in groups to the site and watch the progress that is being made from time to time.

There is a general complaint to the effect that there is a good deal of corruption in the construction of Bhakra Dam at every stage and there are allegations of embezzlement in the execution of works. I may assure the hon. Members that practical and effective steps are being taken to eradicate this evil and speedy investigations in regard to certain allegations against the officials are in progress.

Now a few words more about the roads and I have done. At the time of partition, East Punjab got a share of Rs. 8—9 crores under the 5-year post war development plan but afterwards our share was first reduced to Rs. 4½ crores and then ultimately it stood at Rs. 75 lakhs—in spite of its being a border state. So discussions were held on the subject between this State and the Centre and it was decided that the State Government should contribute an amount of money equal to the share granted by the Centre and that the State should realise one-third of its share from the landlords of the area where the roads are to be constructed or widened.

Then our Government has decided to nationalise transport industry and I think all the hon. Members should accord their active support towards the early materialisation of this scheme. It is said that proprietors of many Transport Companies wait upon some hon. Members in deputations to voice their feelings against this scheme but I am confident that they would not pay any heed to them and co-operate with the Government to nationalise Transport which would help augment the revenues of the State and go a long way enabling the Government to carry out the schemes for its development.

Bakshi Partap Singh (Sujanpur) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion moved on the Governor's Address and offer my congratulation to the Government. Now I wish to refer to the points which have not been mentioned in the Address. I belong to the Kangra District. During the period of British rule this district remained a centre for recruitment to the Armed Forces. Equally enthusiastically and voluntarily was the recruitment made

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by the ilaqa for the war of independence fought under the supreme command of Netaji Subash Chander Bose. But not a single word has been said in the Address for the welfare of those people. During the last war, Government gave five thousand rupees to the people of Palampur Tehsil. The residents, however, made over this amount to the District Board for the maintenance of a Middle School. There is a great scarcity of water. The students have to carry water with them. I feel that the sons of the soldiers cannot receive a 'equate education unless the means of communication in the district are satisfactory. Secondly, a reference should have been made in the Address for providing financial relief to the Jawans and soldiers of the Indian National Army.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I have risen to support the Motion of thanks moved by Shri Sher Singh. Although certain important points have escaped inclusion in this Address yet I think, it must be welcomed by the House because with it the Governor's rule has come to an end and a new era of democratic rule has been ushered in. Then this Address does not hold out any unnecessary high hopes or make any false promises. On the contrary it deals with realities which the Government will face and try to resolve them. The general elections, according to this Address, were free and fair and this statement has been substantiated by the fact that only 2 or 3 per cent of the candidates for this House have filed petitions. And even if the entire constituencies are taken into account the number of petitions filed comes to 15 per cent only. This reveals that in 85 per cent cases elections were free and fair. The reference, made to the Tenancy Bill in the Address, will convince every body of the fundamentals on the basis of which Government proposes to safeguard the interests of the tenants. As regards the Harijans I may submit that our Government has given Shri Sunder Singh a seat close to that of Pandit Sri Ram Sharma and hundreds of pandits are working under him. Nothing more could be done to elevate Harijans than this. In matters educational the scheme of nationalization of text books would certainly provide relief to the parents and the students from the high cost of books to a considerable extent. Lastly, I would say that Government has also not neglected the interests of the political workers who had at one time sacrificed their all at the altar of freedom. Let me hope that

their children will now receive the necessary relief from the Government. With these words, Sir, I support the motion under discussion.

Sri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North-West) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have not risen to say anything against the present Ministry as it assumed office only very recently. Moreover, the hon. Ministers have, during this short period, visited the famine-stricken areas as many as three times. His Excellency the Governor has, while referring to the prevailing scarcity in the Hissar District, stated that all possible steps have been taken to meet the situation. But it seems that conditions have not improved and nothing substantial has been done so far in this direction. Instances in this connection are not wanting. I think the hon. Ministers who visited these areas may have experienced that the labourers working on the road-side are not being paid their wages in time. So far as my information goes, the payment of their wages is delayed by 2 or 3 weeks every month. This is how the poor labourers who do not possess anything to fall back upon are put to a lot of inconvenience.

Minister for Public Works : Is this state of affairs still continuing ?

Shri Ram Kishan : I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister, who has himself been there, that conditions have not improved yet and the same old treatment is being meted out to them. Payments are not made to them till the measurements are completed. I wonder if things would improve in the future. As a matter of fact it has been experienced that orders and instructions issued to the officers from above are thrown in the waste paper baskets.

Then, Sir, it is far from right to say that village ponds are being dug in the famine-stricken areas. Besides, though it has been stated that employment has been provided through opening of Cotton and Woolen Spinning Centres, what we find there is quite contrary to these things. As I have already stated, the officers do not strictly follow the instructions received from the higher authorities and they do everything according to their own sweet will. The matter does not stop here. The poor women who used to earn their livelihood by grinding wheat etc., have been thrown out of employment and are experiencing great hardships. Perhaps you are aware, Sir, that there

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are two fully equipped flour mills in my town and the work regarding grinding of wheat etc., has been monopolised by the owners of these mills with the result that poor people have been thrown out of employment. This is not all. Even black-miths have been reduced to poverty as there is no work for them.

The greatest difficulty is felt about the non-availability of fodder as a result of which the cattle have either died or have been exported to other places. It goes without saying that in the absence of cattle poor kisans would be put to a lot of inconvenience at the time of bringing their land under the plough. Then assurances have been held out that arrangements with regard to import of fodder would be made, but it seems that nothing substantial has been done so far. I would suggest to the Government that those who can afford to purchase fodder on cash payment should be allowed to do so.

So far as the industrial labour is concerned, I wish to submit that I belong to that area where two fully equipped mills are working. I want that some steps should be taken to.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is over. I call upon Shri Abdul Ghani to make his speech.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion of thanks moved by my hon. Friend Professor Sher Singh. It is really a matter for gratification that the Address gives us hopes of a new and a rising Punjab. It is also a matter for great satisfaction that so far as Panchayats are concerned, Government have declared in unequivocal terms that all-out efforts would be made to clothe them with more and more powers.

Mr. Speaker, the policy of the Government towards the tenants in the State also seems to be very sound and I am sure that the condition of the backward and down-trodden people of our State who were hitherto uncared for, would be ameliorated.

The other point towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, Sir, is this. I was under the impression and I had also no doubt whatsoever in my mind, that the hon. Members occupying the Opposition Benches would advance constructive suggestions for the betterment of the poor masses. But

I am really constrained to remark that they found it fit to raise only the rural and urban controversy. Some of my hon. Friends opposite have in the course of their speeches referred to the recent General Elections as not having been conducted in a free and fair manner. But I can say that the arguments advanced by them in favour of their contention were neither cogent nor convincing. Had the elections been not fair, I am sure, my hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh would not have succeeded in defeating a Congress candidate

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should confine himself to the subject under discussion and refrain from making any irrelevant remarks.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar : Very well, Sir, I bow to your ruling and I won't make any such reference on the floor of this House. Mr. Speaker, our Government has made up its mind to build a New Punjab and it indeed deserves to be congratulated. In this connection I would like to make a few observations in the hope that the Government will give them its careful consideration. Well, Sir, my submission is that if the Government wishes to avoid any recurrence of the prevailing scarcity in the district of Hissar as it says that it is going to be the last famine then I would suggest that it should appoint a Sub Committee for devising ways and means for solving the problems which usually confront both the Government and the people in the event of a famine. For instance, a sufficient amount of money should be reserved for meeting the demands of the people in case rains fail in future. It is really a matter of gratification that the hon. Deputy Leader of the House has already held out an assurance to the effect that this famine would be the first and the last of its kind in the State in general and in the district of Hissar in particular.

The other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is regarding the political sufferers who made great sacrifices in the struggle for Independence. The Political Sufferers Relief Fund which has been raised to Rs. 50,000 is a joke. If it is really the intention of the Government to uplift the political sufferers then the best thing would be to formulate a scheme for their rehabilitation. This would not only raise their morale but also will enable them to render maximum service to the masses.

[Shri Abdul Ghani Dar]

Further, if the Government feels that the officers belonging to P.C.S. cadre who are rendering good service to the people and the State, deserve consideration, then it should not ignore patwaris, police constables and other low-paid Government servants who are equally serving the state faithfully. If due regard is not paid to improve the hard lot of the petty Government servants then I am afraid, it will be well nigh impossible to eradicate the evil of corruption. It is a matter for gratification that our Government has declared in unequivocal terms to root out corruption. In this connection I would suggest to the Government to set up an Anti-corruption Committee and a Public Relations Committee. If these two committees work side by side or in other words if the officers of the Government and the public cooperate with each other to root out corruption, I am sure, it will not take long to do away with this evil.

Further, a certain class of labourers who before the partition used to earn their livelihood in the hilly areas were not so poor as they are now. The reason is that the Forest Department stands in their way and offers obstruction in several ways not allowing them to eke out their living. I would, therefore, request the Government to take adequate steps to ameliorate their hard lot.

Then, Mr. Speaker, you are aware of the fact that control has been imposed upon the sale of gram. Consequently people do not get sufficient quantity of gram to feed their cattle and naturally they have no other alternative but to purchase it in the black-market. I would, therefore, request the Government to devise some plans to meet the demands of the people in this direction.

One point more and I have done. You are aware, Sir, that before partition Punjab was not only self-sufficient in the matter of food but also it used to export foodgrains to other places. The districts of Lyallpur and Montgomery were the two main centres of production. At that time the people of the Western Punjab derived much benefit from the mandis of Lahore and Amritsar. But now the Amritsar Mandi has suffered a great set-back due to partition. I would, therefore, request the Government to pay its serious attention towards this matter of vital importance. It should adopt measures to improve the mandi of Amritsar.

Sardar Darshan Singh: (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*):—Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few observations with regard to the Address delivered by the Governor. I am of the opinion that His Excellency has failed to fulfil the promises which he held out to the people from time to time. We do not find anything substantial in the Address for the people in general and the Harijans in particular. We had high hopes that after the attainment of Independence the Congress Government would do its best to afford all possible amenities to the people, provide employment and offer other sources of livelihood to the teeming millions. But when the Congress assumed office, it forgot everything and did not pay any heed to our dire needs. Mr. Speaker, you will be pained to hear that instead of providing facilities, various taxes have been levied upon our Harijan brethren. No attention has been paid by the Government to our age-old grievances and our cry continues to be a cry in the wilderness.

Now Sir, when the Government officials go to villages to collect taxes, they commit atrocities on the people. This is what the Government has done for us. Many hon. Members have complained of the suffering of villagers but I wish to point out that Harijans are the worst sufferers in this respect. Sir, members of our community have been beaten to death by the police but no action has been taken against the persons concerned. Taking of forced labour has been made an offence but Harijans are still being made to run the wells and do similar things at many places. We are being subjected to various hardships in the form of "Thikri Pehra" and other such things.

Now, let me refer to the questions of rehabilitation of displaced Harijans. At first they were given some lands but now these are being taken away from them. They have no houses to live in, nor has any financial assistance been given to them. In support of my contention, I wish to cite the instance of village Khankot in Amritsar district. The refugees who had settled there have been ousted and all the land has been allotted to one or two big zamindars. These refugees were thrown on the roadside and remained without shelter in the rainy season. It resulted in many of them falling ill.

Besides, we are told, and it is given out in the newspapers as well, that the Government has provided several facilities for the

[Sardar Darshan Singh]

education of Harijan children. In reality, our children are leaving schools because Government has made no provision for the award of scholarships or fee concessions to them to enable them to continue their studies.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh : This is not correct. The Government is giving scholarships to Harijan children and has made satisfactory arrangements for their education.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members should not address each other direct.

Sardar Darshan Singh : If the Government really wishes to help the Harijans, it should give them lands and save them from the tyranny of the police. Satisfactory arrangements should be made for the education of their children.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (Punjabi) : Sir, I have risen to support the motion of thanks because I feel that the Address delivered by the Governor offers solution of many of our problems. Now I wish to offer a few suggestions. I belong to the border district of Amritsar and have been elected from a constituency which adjoins Wagha-Khalra border. I am sure, the hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar knows and appreciates the difficulties of people living near the border.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should refer to him as the hon. Chief Minister and not as hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : The hon. Chief Minister, who was at that time known as Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, used to say that he realised and sympathised with the difficulties of the people living on the border. He was then of the view that these people deserved special treatment. They become panicky whenever there is estrangement of relations between Indian and Pakistan Governments. Sometimes they begin to seriously think if it would not be better for them to go to some other place away from the border. I am of the opinion that they should receive special privileges and attention of the Government in the matter of provision of hospitals, schools and better roads.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is this. The people of Hissar are suffering on account of failure of rains and are praying for these, but we people, who belong to Amritsar are afraid of the approaching monsoon season. We had to suffer very heavily on account of floods in the year before last and we have serious apprehensions about the recurrence of the same conditions. To meet the flood situation in 1950, the Government had established a special "Drainage Section" of the Irrigation Department, but after spending an amount of about sixty thousand rupees, it was closed down. I shall request the Government to revive that scheme.

Then, Sir, I wish to refer to the condition of Harijans. They are being tyrannized over by those for whom they refused to vote. They should be provided with suitable houses in the villages and a Bill should be passed enabling them to become owners of common land (shamilat) in the villages.

The next thing about which I wish to say a few words is the water rate (Abiana). This matter has been the subject of a good deal of controversy in the State. Our Ministers promised that they would take up this issue as soon as they came into power. I shall, therefore, request them to devote immediate attention to this problem.

Shri Dev Datt Puri (Jagadhri) (Hindi) : Sir, I wish to thank His Excellency the Governor for the Address delivered by him. However, I would like to say a few words with regard to one or two matters. I was glad to notice at page 6 of the Address, a reference having been made to Rural Community Projects. I think that if proper use is made of these four centres, which are proposed to be started with foreign aid, there can be appreciable increase in the production of foodgrains and other commodities in our country. In this connection, I wish to point out that some countries have taken full advantage of the foreign aid and have increased their production on a permanent basis, while in some other countries the money has gone into the pockets of a few officers only. Take the case of Western Europe, where they have made considerable progress under the Marshall Aid Programme. In Nationalist China, however, similar aid resulted in filling the pockets of a few officers only. I would request the Government to ensure that proper use is made of this foreign aid and what happened in China under Chiang Kai-Shek's government is not permitted to happen here. We have a strong

[Shri Dev Datt Puri]

Ministry in our State and I hope that it will take steps to bring about lasting progress and prosperity of the people in this State.

Mr. Speaker : According to the time table the hon. Minister for Development will now address the House.

Minister for Revenue and Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (Punjabi) : Sir, I have heard speeches of both the Opposition and Government Members with rapt attention. Obviously the object of the Opposition Members is to criticise the Government but the hon. Members sitting on this side of the House have also criticised the Government in a liberal measure. I do not fight shy of criticism, but if at the end of such criticism, some constructive suggestions are also put forward, it can serve some useful purpose. I have no hesitation in saying that the Members belonging to the Government party now do not want to defend every action of the Government or that of its officers. What we want is the prosperity and happiness of the people of our State. We want that the administration should be carried on on right lines. So we have to remove the shortcomings and defects that have crept into it. In order to remove those defects in the administration, we shall need the help of hon. Members of this House.

A mention has been made about consolidation of land holdings in the Address of His Excellency the Governor. I admit that the time limit for the completion of this work, as stated therein, is eight years. But may I tell the House that before now we used to hear the limit of 40 years for the accomplishment of this task. I know that the limit of eight years is also sufficiently long, but I assure the House that we shall try to finish this work as soon as possible. It will be our end avour to complete it in even four years by appointing special officers for this purpose and by taking other necessary steps. (cheers) But inspite of our efforts the delay is bound to occur. We find that with our effort to expedite this work, corruption has also very much increased in this department. As a matter of fact ever since this work was started, corruption has been rampant among the officials, such as Patwaris, Kanungoes, Naib Tehsildars and Tehsildars. But this does not mean that all the officials are corrupt. Some of them are no doubt honest. But on the whole we are facing

a lot of difficulty in this respect. At the time of final distribution of land, these officials create a lot of difficulties for the people. They know that the people are afraid of them and consequently those people go to them and vie with each other in offering them bribes. Under such circumstances, the officials make lot of money. I have therefore no doubt that there has been quite a lot of corruption among the officials in this connection. But I am determined to put a stop to this evil. (Cheers) But in my effort to do so, I want the help of the hon. Members. I would request them to see that wherever this work of consolidation is being carried on, no official, high or low, accepts illegal gratification. They should keep a strict watch over those officials.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : But you do not allow anybody to interfere in your affairs.

Minister for Revenue and Development : My hon. Friend is a veteran political leader and a Parliamentarian. He should know that he can keep a watch over the officials even without interfering in their work. He can contact the people of the villages and find out which official is corrupt. Then he can report the matter to me. If he finds that there is a *prima facie* case of corruption, he can report it to me without himself approaching the Tehsildar and telling him that he would be dismissed. He should come to me and I will help him. I know the purpose of my hon. Friends is only to serve their constituents in every way. But the best way to do so is to watch the officials and if they are found corrupt, the matters should be reported to me. But if there is corruption in the constituency of an hon. Member and he does not inform us about it, I will hold him guilty before the public of that place. And on the other hand if any hon. Members bring any case of corruption to our notice and we sit still doing nothing in the matter, then they can call for our explanation over here.

Then, Sir it is within my knowledge that the work of Grow More Food is not being done properly. I know that the Jeep-cars meant for this work have been utilized for carrying the relatives of the officers. I also know that petrol is being misused. In fact I am fully aware of all these things. It is my intention that the Jeep-cars should be taken away from those officers and put to some better use elsewhere. I am, therefore, making enquiries into this matter and am

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trying to find out the total expenditure incurred during the last year on petrol and on the upkeep of the Jeep-cars. If I find that this work can be accomplished in a better way and at less cost by asking the officers to use horses instead of Jeep-cars, then these Jeeps will be withdrawn from them. The hon. Members should have no doubt that I will make every effort to set things right in the matter of Grow More Food Schemes.

Now, Sir, this problem of growing more food is really a problem of finding more water for irrigation whether it is obtained through tube-wells or by digging canals or sinking wells. I assure the House that we shall employ every means to get water.

Besides this, Tenancy legislation has come in for a good deal of criticism at the hands of my hon. Friends. It has been said that ever since the Government endeavours to solve the tenancy problem, it has made the situation still worse. I think what they want is a prompt solution of this problem. But the difficulty is that whenever a law is enacted against certain persons, they find new ways of evading it. Then the Government has to remove the previous defects by bringing up a new legislation. When we provided in the Act that the land owners owning more than one hundred acres of land would not be entitled to eject the tenants, they started division of their holdings. Then we reduced this limit to 50 acres. Again they found other ways of evading the law. They started getting the entries of Girdawaries made in their own names and not in the names of their tenants. This does not mean that we are not trying to solve this problem. We have made the enactment regarding the limit of 50 acres. Previous to this the Ministry passed other Acts also. All these efforts were honest and were made in good faith. If the owners are creating difficulties through their influence and power, it does not mean that we are not trying to solve this problem. I may tell the House that we shall bring a new Tenancy (Amendment) Bill during the next Budget Session and in that, effort will be made to remove the present difficulties of the tenants so that the tenants may be able to progress without let or hindrance. Besides, it is to my knowledge that under the pretext of selling the land, the landlords have been ejecting the tenants. We have tried to kill the germs of the disease but they have been eluding us. But we are determined to fight those germs which want to keep the tenants suppressed.

The Tenancy (Amendment) Bill which we will bring before the House during the next Budget Session will ensure development of healthy life for the tenants. The hon. Members will have realised that it is our sincere and fervent desire to improve the condition of the tenants. The Punjab Tenants (Security of Tenure) Amendment Act may not have rooted out the disease completely but it must have killed some of the germs at least. Anyhow, the legislation that we propose to bring forward in the next Budget Session will kill the remaining germs and smoothen the way for the prosperous life of the tenants. Now I don't wish to dilate upon the various steps which Government have taken and which they intend taking to resolve the tenants problem. I would, however, request the hon. Members to try to remove the difficulties that come in our way and refrain from creating any new difficulties or new enmities between different classes of people in the State. It is our duty to solve the tenancy problem and the mind of the Government is quite clear on this point. There are many ways of solving this problem. The Government is prepared to accept suggestions and consider them on their merits. But I feel that many of our problems can be solved by the cooperation of the hon. Members. In Hissar district, for example, we can work together and try to provide relief to the sufferers. Mere criticism cannot mend matters. In this connection I may point out that we took the reins of office on the 17th of the last month, and the very first step that we took was to make a thorough study of the problem of Hissar District and to provide immediate relief to the famine stricken people. It was our duty to do so. Besides lokraj demands that the problems of the people should be tackled immediately with a view to mitigate their sufferings. But there are certain persons who exaggerate things merely for the sake of drawing the attention of the authorities to them. I would request them not to do so because ours is a Government of the people and we fully realise the difficulties and troubles of the common man. As I have already stated that when this House of 126 Members was elected and the Ministry installed the first and foremost thing that attracted the attention of the Government was the scarcity condition prevailing in the Hissar District. As a matter of fact such conditions were developing there for the last two years or so and now things have come to such a pass that we are faced with scarcity of fodder in that area. We cannot ignore the animal wealth of our State. Most of us are agriculturists and as such we know the immense love that the farmers cherish for their cattle. So far as the question of supply

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of foodgrains is concerned, the hon. Chief Minister has rightly stated that the difficulty regarding the distribution of foodgrains for human beings can be overcome by opening depots in the area and the same has been done by the Government. But another difficulty has arisen and that is that a considerable number of people have no money to buy foodgrains. The Government are making efforts to overcome this difficulty by giving relief in the shape of providing work for them. My colleague, the hon. Chaudari Lahri Singh has stated that we are asking such persons to take to digging of canals in the area. They can earn enough with which they can make both ends meet. But the difficulty is that many of them do not like this job. This is not our fault. Every one should love labour and appreciate the dignity of labour. Another complaint which has been voiced in certain quarters is that those who have taken to digging canals do not get regular payments. I may tell the House that the hon. Minister for Irrigation and the Chief Minister have issued strict instructions for making regular payments to the labourers. If after the issue of these instructions, things still go wrong there, the matter should be again brought to our notice and we will take action. As regards digging of canals and employment of contractors for this purpose, I would like to point out that it is the desire of this Government to do away with this system as far as practicable. In fact we would like to get this work executed by the help of labour co-operative societies, so that the profits accruing to the contractors may go to them. Then it has been stated by my hon. Friends that the profits received by the labour co-operative societies, when compared with contractors are less by twenty per cent. I may tell the House that Government is not oblivious to this fact and soon the rate of profit would be made equal to that of the contractors with a view to encouraging the co-operative effort.

Another matter to which a reference has been made in the House is with regard to the scarcity of fodder in certain districts of our State. In reply to a question asked on the floor of the House I have already stated what efforts the Government have made regarding this matter. Nearly one lakh and ninety thousand permits have been issued for the import of fodder in order to relieve this scarcity. Besides this seventy eight wagons of dried grass have reached the famine stricken area during the last seven or eight days.

Not only this. Eight concentration camps for cattle have been opened. About thirty wagons of hay have been brought to the affected area. In my opinion the best course for our critics is to stop this unnecessary criticism and do something solid for providing relief to the district of Hissar. The real sympathy consists in doing something practical for the sufferers. So we should gird up our loins and come to the rescue of these animals. I feel that the problem of Hissar district is the problem of the whole of Punjab. If unfortunately the cattle of Haryana breed, becomes extinct, it will deal a death-blow to the prosperity of our agriculture. The farmer of our State knows full well the value of Haryana breed. So in order to save this cattle-wealth of our State and to make our farmers happy all of us should try our utmost to provide relief to Hissar district immediately. Co-operation of all the people is essential for the accomplishment of this stupendous task.

An hon. Member: We want priority for carriage of fodder to the affected area.

Minister for Revenue and Development: It has already been given. What is required is that all of us should immediately rush fodder to this area and save the precious cattle-wealth of our State.

As I have already mentioned, Government is experiencing much difficulty in the procurement of fodder. For this purpose concession permits have been issued but till the fodder arrives there, it is difficult to overcome this trouble.

Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat: I wish that all the things stated here are put into practice.

Minister for Revenue and Development: But you also have to put things into practice. It is difficult for me to take any action on complaints of a general nature. We have gone to the extent of asking the Tehsildars to get it notified by the beat of drum, that if any one was in need of fodder he could have the concession permit for the import of fodder. I would request my hon. Friends that if they find that this is not being done, then they may please inform me. I shall try to do what is possible.

Well, Sir, my own feeling is that in Hissar, famine conditions should be removed for ever. There are 33½ lakh acres of land lying

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fallow in this district. There cultivation mainly depends upon the rains. But Eighteen lakh acres of land of this district will be irrigated by canal water as soon as the Bhakhra Dam Project is completed. It is scheduled to be completed by the year 1959 but special efforts are being made to complete its construction by the year 1957.

Shri Sri Chand : Will this water irrigate the districts of Rohtak, Karnal and Gurgaons as well?

Minister for Revenue and Development : I am talking of the Hissar District only and in that district 18 lakh acres of land will be irrigated by this water. I am at present worried about Hissar, as to how the famine conditions there can be checked. In that district, whenever there is some rainfall, the fodders becomes cheap. The Government intends to build up stocks of fodder in 'Mosuls' and 'Kups' for emergency purposes. This will be done as soon as there is rainfall and fodders is available at a nominal price. The fodder thus stored will not go bad at least for ten to fifteen years to come. Even now, we are trying to supply canal water to about 2½ lakh acres of land in the affected area of the district, and we hope to be successful in this mission, if a certain bridge is constructed in cooperation with the railway authorities. That department has been requested for this purpose by our Government. I may submit that we have not sought election to this House, for the sake of Ministerships only but on the other hand we have come here to serve the public. We solicit your co-operation.

PRESS GALLERY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Speaker : I have to make two or three announcements in the House. A Press Gallery Committee consisting of the following representatives of the different Newspapers has been constituted:—

1	Shri A. C. Bali	Representative of the Tribune
2	Shri S. L. Kapur	do the Partap
3	Shri Shiv Dayal	do the Milap
4	Shri N. K. Nag	do the U. P. I.
5	Shri H. L. Pandit	do the P.I.I.
6	Shri S. R. Soni	do the Times of India
7	Shri P. C. Batra	do the Hindustan Times
8	Shri C. L. Bhardwaj	do the Statesman.

They will elect their own office bearers.

According to the past practice the House Committee is formed with Deputy Speaker as its Ex-Officio Chairman. It will consist of

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

1. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon
2. Sardar Saroop Singh
3. Shri Dev Datt Puri
4. Sardar Achhar Singh
5. Sardar Gurbanta Singh

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

The following will comprise the panel of Chairmen :

1. Shrimati Shanno Devi
2. Sardar Harbhajan Singh
3. Sardar Ajmer Singh
4. Shri Mool-Chand Jain.

Out of those hon. Members who are anxious to speak, I have selected the following eight Members. They have an irresistible claim to make a speech :—

1. Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal
2. Shri Ram Parkash
3. Shri Ram Kishan
4. Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan
5. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht
6. Sardar Shib Singh
7. Shri Babu Dyal
8. Shri Jagdish Chander.

According to rules, I have decided to allot time from 12-20 p. m to 12-50 p. m. to the hon. Members for making speeches. Now, I call upon Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal to speak.

An hon. Member : On a point of information, Sir. What is the irresistible claim in this respect ?

Mr. Speaker : Submission of name for 50, 70 or 90 times. If the hon. Member sends his name, his claim will also become irresistible (*Laughter*).

Shri Jagdish Chander : I withdraw my name from this list.

Chief Minister : Mr. Speaker, since you are reserving some time for putting amendments to vote, I would like to make one suggestion in this connection. Much time can be saved and allotted to hon. Members, for making their speeches, if the hon. Leader of the Opposition agrees to withdraw all the amendments tabled by his party and on my part I assure you that amendments put forward by hon. Members on this side of the House will also be withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Chief Minister has suggested that the time reserved by me for the voting of amendments can be saved if these are withdrawn by hon. Members sitting on both sides of the House. Thirty five minutes will thus be saved if this is done. I would, therefore, ask the leader of the Opposition if his friends want to withdraw the amendments tabled by them. If so the time thus saved may be utilised for making speeches by the hon. Members. I would also request Shri Sher Singh, that he should be content with 7½ minutes instead of 15 minutes desired by him.

Now I call upon Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal to speak. The time placed at at his disposal is so short, that he will be able only to make an appearance before the House.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : (Ballabgarh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, my purpose will not be served merely by making an appearance before the House for a short while. I seek your indulgence in the matter of allotment of time for making a speech. Well, Sir, I have stood up to make some observations regarding His Excellency the Governor's Address. I maintain that there is nothing in it that we can feel proud of. Our revered Chief Minister with all his political sagacity, has deemed it fit to form a Cabinet of eight ministers for a small province consisting of 12½ districts whereas previously there were seven ministers and now the ninth one is about to be added. I therefore, congratulate him on that score.

Mr. Speaker : Please make some constructive suggestions.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : Sir, I am not making any personal reference. I am only conveying a piece of good news to the House.

Sir, I wanted to say that I have been returned from Ballabgarh constituency. When the development work started, this territory was also included in the development scheme. But now I learn that our hon. Minister who belongs to some other district wants to transfer

this development programme to his own district and thereby abandon the previous scheme. Ballabgarh is a place where there is no road, no school and to crown all, there exist no arrangements for drinking water even. A similar state of affairs exists in Gurgaon District as well. Sir, I want to convey to the hon. Chief Minister through you, that whereas he is devoting much time and attention to the matter of increasing the number of Ministers, he should also pay some heed towards the distressed people who have no means or resources to keep their body and soul together. For instance, Faridabad has a small population of forty thousand and out of that no less than five thousand people are sitting idle for want of any work. In this connection I may inform the House and through you Sir, the Chief Minister that some of them are thinking of committing suicide while it is just possible that the others may rise in a rebellion against the Government. They have neither been allotted any lands nor has any loan been advanced to them.

I may further submit that I am an honest and frank admirer of His Excellency the Governor, In the Address it has been pointed out that in some cases elections to local bodies have not been held for the last sixteen years. Why not celebrate the silver Jubilee by postponing them for a few years more ! (*Laughter*).

How gratifying it is that the plans of Chandigarh which Ch. Lehri Singh used to show have not been completed as yet. Some time back our Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru visited Chandigarh and I also happened to go there at that time. Our Chief Minister who was once deadly opposed to this Capital Project seems to be in its favour now. For the last 4½ years it is being dinned into our ears that a new capital is being constructed for Punjab but our Government has not been able to make any headway in the actual construction work. The business magnates and lawyer community of the province have shifted to other places and thus in a way the whole economy of the province has been shattered

Shri Ram Parkash : (Molana) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have gone through the Address of His Excellency the Governor, but I do not find anything special in it. The proportion of representation in services fixed for the Scheduled Castes is not being implemented. Not a single high post has been given to the Harijans

[Shri Ram Parkash]

None of the members of our community holds any executive job in the Police Department. Amongst the thirteen Deputy Commissioners at present working in the province not a single one belongs to our community. After all what is the use of making any reservation if we are not to be given our due rights? For instance let me take the case of the Upper House, Out of the total number of forty Members in the Legislative Council not a single person represents us. I would request that in future no vacancies should be filled till the question of reservation of posts for the Scheduled Castes has been decided by the Government.

Then, Sir, the hon. Minister referred to the question of consolidation of holdings. My submission is that the Consolidation of Holdings Department has given inferior land to the Harijans. The Government should also make proper arrangements for the supply of other necessities of life in the rural areas.

Then, we have a grouse against the police officers because when they go for making any enquiry in the villages they maltreat the Harijans at the instigation of communal-minded persons. When we make any complaint against them to the Superintendent of Police or to the hon. Ministers then they depute the very officers for enquiry against whom the complaint has been lodged, with the result that the matter is shelved and our grievances remain unredressed. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to look to the interests of Harijans so that they may be able to pass their life peacefully.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh: (Moga-Dharamkot) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have not formed any happy impression about the inaugural Address of His Excellency the Governor that he has delivered to the Legislature. While expressing deep sympathy with the poor, I think, he has shed only crocodile tears. In fact the Government has done nothing to alleviate the distress of the poor. Moreover, I may submit that he has not made any mention in his Address that the criminal tribes will no longer remain as such after the attainment of independence. For instance, Burias who have been declared as a Criminal Tribe should not have this stigma on them for ever. If, however, any person belonging to the criminal tribes is guilty of the commission of any offence he must be punished.

Then, Sir, His Excellency the Governor has remarked in his

Address that promotion in services will be on the basis of merit and no considerations of caste or community will be allowed to influence decisions. It means that ruralites can only get promotion if they can stand shoulder to shoulder with the urbanites. I wish that the Government had also provided equal facilities for education in villages as in towns. In the absence of such facilities the Government must give some concession to the young men belonging to rural areas in the matter of recruitment in Government services. Similarly, Harijans are ignored on the ground that they do not possess high educational qualifications. But I would request the Government not to insist upon high qualifications in the case of Harijans so that they may be able to get their full share in the services. My friends have told me that the Government think that it has done a great favour to the Harijans by including one Harijan in the Cabinet. But I would say that the Harijan member who has been taken in the Cabinet is only a tool (*Chameha*) and has no potential voice in the Government.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has no right to pass these remarks against the hon. Minister. The word '*Chameha*' is unparliamentary.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh: Sir, I withdraw these remarks. Then, Sir, His Excellency the Governor has remarked in his Address that his Government feels very strongly that justice should be done to all people. But I shall welcome the day when Harijans also begin to feel that they are in a position to obtain substantial justice from the Government.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan: (Ambala City) (*Hindi*): Sir, I have risen to support the motion of thanks sponsored by my hon. Friend Shri Sher Singh to the inaugural Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor. I have heard the speeches delivered from the Opposition Benches in which the hon. Members have made allegations of serious irregularities in the conduct of elections against the Government. I admit and support their point of view that irregularities were committed. But who committed these irregularities? I can cite a number of instances where unfair means were employed by the parties other than the Congress. The persons who accuse the Congress of committing these irregularities must know that in fact the fault lies at their door. Then, Sir, I would say that His Excellency the Governor deserves our thanks for the policy and programme of his

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Government that he has outlined in his Address. The speech of the hon. Minister for Development is illuminating on this point. I would draw the attention of the hon. Ministers that they should give their serious thought to the problems of the displaced persons and take some practical steps for giving them the much-needed relief. The word 'displaced person' includes all persons whether Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims or Christians who migrated from West Pakistan with the intention of settling here. It also includes the Muslims displaced forcibly during the disturbances of 1947, who ran away to and remained in other parts of India but did not go to Pakistan. So far as the Governor's Address is concerned, it has clearly shown the achievements made by the Government in different spheres of its activities. I wonder why after the speech of the hon. Minister for Development the Opposition Party has not spoken a word of thanks for the well admitted achievements for which the Government deserves credit.

Sardar Sh'ib Singh (Rani) (Punjabi): Sir, I was glad to hear His Excellency the Governor's Address, the other day. I know that many schemes have been formulated by the Government for the development of the State but I wonder why those schemes are not put into practice. May I ask the Government what has become of the Gaon Panchayat Bill? It has not been passed by the Government so far. The Government has not prepared any scheme to irrigate that area of land in Gurdaspur district where water supply is scarce. I may submit that the pinch of scarcity of water is being keenly felt there. Then no arrangement has been made by the Government to provide electricity to this district. Not only this. There is the pressing need for the opening of a college in this district but the pity of it is that the Government has not taken any steps in this direction.

As a matter of fact whenever a request for opening a college is made, the matter is deferred till the next year. I had made a suggestion that if new building for a college could not be constructed the Government High School might be closed and a college started in its building. Since there were two more high schools functioning in the town of Gurdaspur, the closing of Government school would not make much difference. Even this suggestion has been ignored and no college has been opened. I hope this matter will receive due consideration at the hands of Government. Then I would request

that this district should not be excluded from the scheme of co-operative farming.

Well, Sir, complaints have been made that some parties were not treated fairly by the Government during elections. I was a Congress candidate and have been returned to this Assembly on Congress ticket. Do you know, Sir, how I was treated? I had to face the opposition of 99 per cent of the Government officials of my district—the Thanedar, the officials of Labour and Publicity Department, and the employees of the District Board, teachers and clerks and so on. Every one of them left no stone unturned to secure my defeat and all this was done because the President of the State Congress did not want me to succeed.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is over.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (Hindi) : Sir, I have risen to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Chaudhri Sher Singh but I cannot help inviting Government's attention to a few important matters. Along with the questions of rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Punjab the rehabilitation of Meos living in Gurgaon district also needs sympathetic consideration. Some of them are thinking of migrating to Pakistan very soon if they are not given any land to till. If things come to such a pass, they will have serious repercussions on Indo-Pakistan relations and then we who are never tired of professing to be a secular State, will be put in an awkward position in the eyes of the world. The Government should devise some method to allot land to all those Meos who are not included in the census—be it through an affidavit or certification by some officer or M. L. A. or a Minister.

Then, I have to point out with great regret that District Gurgaon does not figure in any of the plans or projects in hand or likely to be taken in hand in the near future. From what Chaudhri Lahri Singh has stated it appears that Government has no programme of construction of roads for this district. Nor is it likely to receive water from Bhakra. We had hoped that this district might be benefited by some rural community project but now we learn that Sonapat is to have priority in this matter. I would urge that this project must be provided to Gurgaon also. Besides, when so much is being done for Faridabad township why should the surrounding areas of Ballabh-

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht)

garh Tehsil be denied the benefits of planning and ordinary amenities like water supply and electricity?

In the end I would suggest an all-round planning for this State and a set programme for every scheme, be it related to land reforms, transport or nationalization of text-books.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City North West) (*Hindi*): Sir, I have risen to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Chaudhri Sher Singh. While giving due credit to the Governor for clearly mentioning the policies of his Government in regard to all major and minor problems facing the State, I think I should avail of this opportunity to invite the pointed attention of the Government, through you, Sir, to a few matters of comparatively greater importance. The Father of the Nation, the late-lamented Mahatma Gandhi, used to say that democracy can mean little until the glow of freedom is felt by the common man. It is all right to give the common man through adult franchise a political status and a voice in the making of the Government but to make him feel the true glow of freedom, his social and economic standard would have to be considerably raised. I am glad to say that schemes, both long-term and short term, with an eye to amelioration of the lot of the common man, have found a prominent place in His Excellency's Address. For instance, take Bhakra and Nangal projects. It is a matter for gratification that at not a very distant future the vision of Bhakra which seemed no more than a dream in 1908 would become an accomplished fact and a concrete reality.

Then, Sir, who is not aware of the conditions prevailing in rural areas of our State today? Out of the 16 thousand villages in our state there are hardly 38 in ten thousand villages which are at present being provided with electric energy. With the completion of the Bhakra-Nangal Projects, we hope to have at our disposal 400,000 k. w. of electric power i. e. ten times the power being generated at present in the whole of the State. So what I want to urge is that distribution of this energy should be so planned as to give a fair share to the rural areas along with towns.

There can be no objection to the nationalization of community services like electricity, provided it results in increased amenities to the public. People of Jullundur have had a very bitter experience of nationalization of electric supply. The Government took over the

electric supply company in its own hands from the tariff point of view but for the man in the street it has come to mean enhancement of electric charges from $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas to 5 annas per unit. I wonder what appeal can the slogan of nationalization have for such people !

The picture of Panchayat Raj with the common man as its fulcrum as visualized in the Governor's Address is all very good. Regarding Gaon Panchayat Bill which originated in the regime of the previous Ministry, we should make it a point to enact this beneficial legislation in the coming Budget session and to commemorate the next birthday anniversary of Mahatmaji by enforcing it all over the State on that auspicious day (2nd October). (*Cheers*)

I am glad to know that the Government is anxious to root out corruption and to improve the tone of the day-to-day administration. But I feel very strongly that so long as this Congress Government does not honour the pledge given at the Karachi session of the All India Congress and reiterated in the directive principles of State policy incorporated in the Constitution of India, I mean the promise of separating judiciary from the executive, it will not be possible to bring about the desired efficiency and improvement in the administrative machinery.

In the end I request the Government to remove all the legitimate grievances of beoparis and petty shopkeepers in regard to the operation of the Sales Tax Act and the rules governing weights and measures.

Shri Babu yal (Sohna) (*Hindi*, : Sir, I have risen to thank His Excellency the Governor for his Address. He ought to be congratulated most heartily for having made it possible for the elections to be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner, the like of which it is difficult to find in any country of the world. (*Cheers*)

However, I regret to point out that some important matters have not been touched upon in the Address. For instance, there is the problems of nomadic tribes such as 'kanjar', 'bhubhaliye' etc. who are seen going from place to place with all their bag and baggage. It is a common sight in the Haryana districts. These poor people are great patriots and have suffered owing to their ingrained love for their country. For their living they are dependent upon

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some cottage industry or manual labour as agricultural labourers.

It may be stated that it is these people who lost their every thing for the freedom of their country. Again, Sir, it is these nomadic tribes who are at present known over as "Bhubhaliye" who in the course of their fight for freedom had taken pledges in the open public to the effect that they would not rest till they had succeeded in hoisting their national flag over the Red Fort of Delhi.

Mr Speaker: May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that these things have nothing to do with the Governor's Address.

Shri Babu Dyal: Another point that His Excellency has mentioned in his Address is that no work of reformation or uplift will deserve appreciation unless the public derives benefit out of it in the real sense of the word. I, therefore, submit that the sufferings and distress of the common man should be removed as early as possible by the Government. I have serious apprehensions that all these consoltions and encouragement in the form of schemes which find place in the Governor's Address for the uplift of common man, will remain pious wishes and will never be given a practical shape to.

Then, so many incidents are happening in my district that one can say that anarchy is prevailing there. Very recently a youth was

Mr. Speaker: This is not a court of Law. No reference to individuals may be made. I would ask the hon. Member to please sit down.

Master Daulat Ram: (Kaithal) (Tindi): Sir, I would like to make a few observations in regard to the motion now before the House. If the elections of the Local Bodies are not conducted this year, that will affect adversely the functioning of the present Government, as far as the welfare of the general masses is concerned. In my opinion these elections should be completed by August next.

The next point concerns the primary education. This scheme should not include only the school going boys and girls but adults as well. In other words the adults should also be allowed to benefit

themselves from free education. Illiteracy should be liquidated from the entire society. Then, Sir, teachers should be given a minimum salary of Rs. 100/- p. m. It goes without saying that the teacher and the soldier stand the highest. Unless a teacher's prestige and freedom are upheld, these schemes will not bring any useful results. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I would wind up my speech with the remarks that expeditious steps should be taken to complete the work of nationalisation of Text-Books.

Pt. Bhagat Ram (Haripur) (Hindi) : Sir, I wish to put some suggestions before you in connection with the Governor's Address. The first point that strikes me very much relates to the people who rendered great services to the nation in the struggle for Independence, and thousands of those families who sacrificed their all at the time of the great political ferment in the country. It has been mentioned that the Government have fixed pensions for their families and that a provision of Rs. 30,000/- or 50,000/- has been made in the Budget for that purpose. I feel pained to see that the people who were responsible for handing over the Punjab of Maharaja Ranjit Singh to the foreigners, the persons who have been conspiring against their own countrymen and have been disloyal to our country, are still possessing Jagirs and leading a life of luxury while our patriots die of starvation. I would urge upon the Government to put an end to the institution of Jagirs. Jagirdars are out of tune with the present time and they should be treated at par with the common man. A common man under the Constitution of India is entitled to the same rights as are enjoyed by a Jagirdar.

Then, Sir, it has been mentioned in the Address that the Text-Books would be nationalised. But, I am looking forward to the day when nationalization of education would take place. In this connection I may point out that every year 40,000 to 50,000 boys and girls come out of colleges and schools and add to the number of unemployed in the country. The education imparted at present in our schools and colleges is such that it makes our children 'half *Bater* and half *Titar*' i. e. it makes them half Indians and half Europeans. Obviously the present system of education is defective. The result is that our children neither succeed at home nor outside in the discharge of their duties. You will agree with me, Sir, that we fought the battle of freedom in order to reform our progeny and give them such education as would make them self-supporting. But on the contrary they

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contribute something to unemployment every year. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if the Government fails to take any effective steps in bringing about a reform in our system of education, then it is bound to spell disaster to the nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is over.

Shri Bhagat Ram : I shall be grateful, Sir, if I am permitted to speak for another minute.

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry, I have to conduct the proceedings according to schedule and now, I call upon Shri Rizak Ram to speak. If Shri Rizak Ram is not present, let Shri Niranjan Dass Dhiman speak.

Shri Niranjan Dass Dhiman (Phillaur) (Hindi) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion of thanks on the Address of the Governor, moved by Shri Sher Singh. I am grateful to His Excellency for having delivered the Address to the House, and congratulate him, through you, Sir, for the manner and spirit in which the general elections were conducted. Then I felicitate the Government for its proposed Nationalization of Transport and Books. I am pleased to learn the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation in the State. I feel confident that the establishment of such a corporation would be a great step forward to improve the lot of industries in the State. In spite of the fact that ours is a class 'A' State it is regretted that in the past no banking facilities existed here. Now of course, this 'corporation' would go a long way in rehabilitating our displaced industries.

Whereas I congratulate the Government for its grand policies, I cannot help inviting its attention towards the large funds that have been allocated under the "5 year plan" for the dissemination of education among the masses, particularly in the countryside. Recently it appeared in one of the newspapers that in the Amritsar district as many as 4,000 students who had received primary education were unable to get admission into the schools for higher education owing to lack of proper and adequate arrangements for this purpose. It pains us a lot to know that our sons and daughters—the future hopes of free India—have been deprived of their fundamental rights. Now, Sir, we strongly advocate the case of promoting literacy amongst

the masses and make a demand for the introduction of adult education but all this talk means nothing when we find that no adequate arrangements exist for the primary education of our children. I, therefore, request this popular Government to take immediate steps to open as many schools as possible to meet the growing demand in the rural as well as urban areas.

The second point to which I would like to refer is the Grow More Food scheme. This campaign, I am sure, can never bring out any good results until the irrigation facilities are freely provided to the zamindars. Then there is a lot of corruption prevailing in the Electricity Department. I do not know the plight of the areas where electricity cannot be provided easily but my hon. Friends can well imagine the difficulties experienced by the people of my Constituency, where despite the fact that electricity is produced in the area, the people are being denied this amenity. The red-tapism prevailing in the department there, is so acute that it surpasses the extent to which it is rampant anywhere else. The people do not get any reply to their queries even after the expiry of a period of 1½ years. Even if a reply is received from the department it contains such conditions for the supply of electricity as are difficult for a common man to comply with. I feel that in this way the fair name of the Government is being tarnished and I would suggest that effective steps be taken to impress upon the officers the desirability of improving the standard of administration in that part of the State.

Shri Kesho Dass (Pathankot) (Hindi) . Sir, the Address which His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to deliver, no doubt, contains references to many urgent problems confronting the State, but I wish to make some amendments in the motion of thanks moved by Professor Sher Singh.

Mr. Speaker : No amendments are allowed at this stage. The hon. Member can make suggestions only.

Shri Kesho Dass : Very well, Sir. The first thing that I want to point out to the House is that the tenants should be provided with adequate security by the Government. The Tenants' Security of Tenure) Act should apply both to the rural as well as urban areas alike. It has been found since 1938 that the condition of labourer- and tenants has been gradually deteriorating. Now a popular governs

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ment like ours is in power, it is high time that further deterioration was checked without any delay.

Then, Sir, I welcome Government's decision to adopt a policy of nationalisation in the matter of text books and transport and I would request the Government to implement it without any loss of time. I hope that this would bring a good deal of income to the State which would go a long way to help solve many of the pressing problems which cannot, at present, be dealt with for want of money.

Then, I am constrained to remark that corruption is prevalent in every sphere of administration. This is perhaps, due to a wide disparity existing in the salaries of various classes of Government servants. I hope that Government's drive to eradicate corruption will surely bring good results if this disparity is reduced to the minimum.

Mr. Speaker : I would now ask the mover of the motion to give the reply.

Shri Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (Hindi) : Sir, after hearing the debate on the motion, I find that some hon. Members have offered severe criticism of the policies announced by the Governor in his Address. Many of the speeches of the hon. Members called for replies from the hon. Ministers concerned and were duly replied. I would, however, make a few observations in defence of the main policies outlined in the Address.

Well, Sir, much of the criticism voiced by the Opposition relates to the general elections. It is alleged that the elections were not held in fair and free manner and that many irregularities were committed in conducting them. One of my hon. Friends went to the extent of saying that many persons were detained on account of their political leanings towards a particular party. I want to tell all concerned that no person was detained on any political considerations. The aim of the Government was only to keep violent activities of certain people in check and thus maintain law and order in the State. The House will agree with me that no Government can ever tolerate any breach of peace. (*interruptions*).

An hon. Member : With your permission, Sir, I may tell the House that no detenu had got any alignment with any political party.

Mr. Speaker : All the detenues have now been released.

Shri Sher Singh : Then, Sir, objection has been taken by a member of the Opposition against the remarks of the American observer regarding elections in India. The hon. Member is not prepared to attach any importance to that appreciative mention. But I think that had some observations been made by some body in Russia the hon Member would have jumped at it and exploited it. (*interruptions*). I am just making a reference to the fundamental policy of our country. As a matter of fact we are not against any ideology, nor are we on unfriendly terms with any country; we welcome their appreciation and criticism alike. Both Russia and America are our friends. We respect their valuable opinion but we have no business to attack or comment upon the policies pursued by them. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : I would request the hon. Member not to raise any controversial point

Shri Sher Singh: Well, Sir, I feel that the elections have been free and fair. The other point raised by some of the hon. Members was in respect to the policy of nationalisation of Motor Transport. Undoubtedly nationalisation will bring more money to the Government coffers and consequently the Government will be in a position to allocate more funds for the beneficent departments. Besides, the Government will be honour bound to provide more facilities to the travelling people in view of the increased income resulting from the nationalisation of motor transport. Only recently the Indian Road Congress announced, its decision to request the Government to nationalise the transport and thus make up the deficiency by providing roads in the rural areas. In view of this recommendation, nationalisation of motor transport becomes all the more necessary. Now about education I wish to submit that Primary Education must be free and compulsory. In this connection, I may suggest that the Government will not have to undergo heavy expenditure on this account if the double shift system, as introduced by the Madras Government, is put into practice here. According to this system the teachers can teach double the number of students by taking one group in the morning and another in the evening and yet no additional expenditure would be incurred. I would request the Government to give its careful consideration to this

[Shri Sher Singh]

scheme and try to introduce it in the State. Then my hon. Friends who spoke on the Address, said some other things also, but they did not relate to matters of policy. The only points relating to policy were Primary Education, Nationalisation of Motor Transport Elections etc., and I have tried to deal with them. No other objection was raised on the Address and I now appeal to the House to pass the motion of thanks.

Chief Minister: (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar). (*Hindi*) Mr. Speaker, The objections raised on the Address of the Governor have been expressed from different points of view. But at this stage, I may not be in a position to fully answer all the objections that have been raised during the course of the discussion but I want to make it clear that any criticism made on the floor of the House has been taken note of and will be considered sympathetically. Before I clarify the position in regard to the status of the Governor, I feel it necessary to refer to the policy enunciated by me, as Leader of the House, in the Address of the Governor. Mr. Speaker, you know that ours is a democratic Constitution. This is a magnificent Constitution that we have placed before the world. In a democratic Constitution there is always a constitutional head who is also the head of the State. He is always above politics. If we look through the pages of the history of the world, we will find that in democratic institutions the head of the State addresses the Legislature. So when we work on democratic lines, we should show due respect to the Legislative set-up under this constitution. I am sorry that some of the hon. Members of this House considered it fit not to show any respect to the Address of the Governor or even to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have told my Friends opposite in a private talk that under a democratic Constitution it is not for the Governor to form a Government or associate with it. Now, Sir, the demonstration staged by the members of the Opposition has thrown a challenge to the very Constitution by virtue of which this House has come into existence. When His Excellency the Governor entered the Assembly Chamber, they made a demonstration against the Governor and walked out. It is very likely that the Address might have contained something unpalatable to my hon. Friends. But as I have pointed out already, the Governor is never associated with the Address.

I have taken some time of the House, because I feel that we should make it quite clear as to what sort of Government we want to have—Government of the people or any other Government. After perusing our Constitution nobody can say that it is not a democratic Constitution. Under this Constitution the head of the State cannot be dragged into politics since he is the constitutional head, he cannot dabble in party politics. He has no opinion of his own. Anyhow let the past bury its hatchet and I hope the House will maintain its fine traditions.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Has your party never walked out ?

Minister For Development : Not after the attainment of independence.

Sardar Sarup Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The implication is unparliamentary.

Sardar Gopal Singh : If his party walks out then that act is full of dignity.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Chief Minister need not be disturbed. He should continue with his speech.

Chief Minister : Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that there is no scope for such happenings in any democratic country in the world.

Then again, Sir, my hon. Friends occupying the Opposition Benches have contended that His Excellency was most discourteous to them as he did not accede to their request for an interview.

Mr. Speaker : May I request the hon. Chief Minister not to discuss such matters now, as I think this will invite more interruptions. Please confine your observations to the Governor's Address.

Chief Minister : Mr. Speaker, I want to explain the policy of the Government with regard to certain points raised by the hon Members opposite in the course of their speeches. In fact the policy of the Government is crystal clear and an endeavour was made to throw some light on these points in the Address delivered by His Excellency

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I do not say that the conditions obtaining at present in the State are quite satisfactory. I do not say that the people are quite satisfied with the present State of affairs. I do not say that people are free from trials or tribulations. I do not say that they have no grievances to place before the Government. Again I do not say that there is nothing wrong with the services and that the services on the whole are functioning most efficiently. I do not say that there is a sufficient number of schools and hospitals and a network of roads in the State to meet the demands of the people. Last but not the least, I do not say that there is no unemployment in the State. I admit that we have not made any mention of such things in the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor. After all we have been asked to assume the reins of Government which was being run by foreigners for about a century. As a result of this thralldom, the conditions obtaining at present in our State are that people are ill-clothed ill-fed and uncared for. Since we have assumed office, we have to handle the situation and devise ways and means to improve the conditions. Now the hon. Members should see as to what is that policy which has been adopted by the Government in dealing with the various problems that confront it. That policy has already been mentioned at length in the Address. I may tell the hon. Members through you, Sir, that Government is determined to change the old policy of approach, requests and repeated requests made by the people to the Government for meeting their various legitimate demands. As a matter of fact, we want to create in as short a period as possible such conditions in the State that the people may not have to say that such and such thing has not been done for them. For instance, we want that people should not get any opportunity to ask the Government for opening schools and hospitals and construct good roads and bridges, but the Government themselves must be alive to the needs of the people and should of its own accord take early steps to do the needful. In other words it is the Government which must realise the needs of the people and make all-out efforts to fulfil them and thus not give any opportunity to the people to approach it or such things. In order to achieve all these things, Government have devised a policy and through you, Mr Speaker, I would like to place that before the House and that is this.

We want to give the maximum power to the panchayats in villages or to a group of villages and to local bodies in rural areas. I was really surprised to hear some hon. Members say that the Government had not done anything substantial for improving the lot of the ruralites. Mr. Speaker, permit me to say that they are not right in making such remarks which have no basis at all. May I know from them whether the Bhakra and Nangal projects and other development schemes are not being implemented for the benefit of the ruralites? It will not be out of place to mention here that so long as we do not improve the condition of the people it would not be possible for us to achieve anything substantial. *(Cheers)* Under the circumstances, we shall have to strain every nerve to provide education, medical and such other facilities to the people living in the rural areas. In fact we have to devise ways and means for improving the lot of the ruralites, as we do not want to see even a single illiterate, ill-fed, ill-clad and uncared for person in the rural areas. We want that a ruralite should not find himself lacking in anything. But these things cannot be achieved overnight. These require time. After all one has to think twice before taking any step in any direction whatsoever. Now what we have to see is as to how far we can succeed in implementing the policy framed by us. I do realize that a very heavy responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of my ministry. But at the same time I cannot do without saying that so long as the hon. Members of this House do not realize their responsibilities, we cannot achieve any success in implementing those schemes which we may place before them from time to time for the betterment of the people. Perhaps the hon. Members will agree with me that for achieving all this we need time and money as these things cannot be done overnight. We have to devise ways and means for developing the resources of our State in the best possible way. In this connection I would like to point out that the policy of the Government is to take maximum steps for the welfare of the people living in the rural areas. Here I take the opportunity of appealing to the hon. Members that while making mention about the ruralites, no efforts whatsoever should be made to raise any question of ruralites versus urbanites. After all why should this question be raised on the floor of this House. I stated it previously and now I reiterate it on the floor of the

[Chief Minister]

House with all the emphasis at my command that towns are built for the service of the ruralites. If the urbanites fail to serve the ruralities then there is no scope for better conditions of life in the urban areas. Perhaps my hon. Friends will remember that the towns grow out of the rural areas. In fact it is in the rural areas that such places, as factories and mandies are constructed and where consequently there is a concentration of population. Such places get automatically converted into towns or townships. Under the circumstances, I am strongly of the opinion that it does not behove the hon. Members to raise such controversial questions on the floor of the House as are detrimental to the interests of the people as well as the State. So any attempt by interested persons to create anti-urban and anti-rural feelings would be discouraged. Such considerations prevailed with the old governments as these suited their purpose. When the purpose for whom such distinctions were intended to serve has disappeared, why should these be allowed to continue? It is the duty of any Government worth the name to look to the needs of the poor and backward people. A naked and hungry man is sure to prove a source of danger to the peace of the State. Such persons will certainly receive due attention of my Government.

Similarly a question has been raised that in the services the interests of a certain community are not being properly safeguarded. It has been alleged that one community is being oppressed while the other is being favoured. The hon. Members will have noticed that a mention has been made in the Address about recruitment to subordinate services in the State. At present, recruitment for posts carrying salary above a certain amount is made by the Public Service Commission. The Government is seriously considering the question of entrusting the work of recruitment of subordinate services also to Public Service Commission, which has established its reputation in the State for its integrity and uprightness. I know that the worst type of communalism takes birth among the services. When a person fails to get a job or a Government servant feels aggrieved, he gives a communal tinge to the whole affair. I do not blame the person who gives such colour to these things. I wish to inform the House, through you, Sir, that this Government is determined that the basis of recruitment as well as promotion in the services will be merit and merit alone and no communal consideration will be allowed to prevail. I invite the hon. Members to bring any case of injustice and

discrimination to my notice and I assure them that I shall be prepared to appoint a commission or a committee to enquire into that matter. This Government is not going to permit anybody to spread the virus of communalism in the State. Communal atmosphere will not be allowed to be created.

Then, Sir, instead of examining the schemes and programmes of the Government, some hon. Members had complained that parity had not been maintained in the present Ministry. What did they mean by parity? Is it necessary that a certain number of Ministers must belong to a particular community? Is it not communalism in its naked form? This Government is not going to tolerate such things. I am glad that I have taken that decision and have put an end to a wrong thing, which had continued for some time. I am not against one community or the other. I love them alike. The hon. Members who raised the question of parity wanted that a certain number of persons belonging to a particular community must be there in the cabinet. These gentlemen should know that cabinet decisions are not made on communal voting. These decisions have always been unanimous and not even in a single case, there had been any difference of opinion. If the distribution of portfolios is examined it would be noticed that the most important portfolios are held by those who belonged to a community some of whose members complained about parity having been thrown to winds. Those gentlemen were performing their duties so well and so honestly that they could be depended upon by members of any community for doing justice to them. (*Cheers*). Instead of thinking on these lines the hon. Members should work for the progress of the State. We have to solve a number of problems with which we are faced. The problem before us is not whether a certain person has found a place in the Ministry or not, but that the schemes before us should be executed with full zeal. The time has come when we must cease to think in terms of narrow communalism. We should devote our attention and energy to the execution of schemes which we have framed for the economic uplift of the masses.

Then, Sir, it was complained that justice had not been done to the backward classes among the Sikhs. In this connection we should not forget all that has happened since the end of 1948. I can say without any fear of contradiction that at one stage the Sikh leaders stated that if Mazhbis, Ram Garhias, Kabir Panthis and one more class of people were included in the list of scheduled classes, they

[Chief Minister]

would have no more demands to make. That demand has already been accepted. If any hon. Member is not aware of it, I wish to remind him by reading from the statement of Bawa Harkishan Singh, Principal, Sikh National College, Qadian and Sardar Bhag Singh, Advocate, Gurdaspur, who were the right hand men of Master Tara Singh. (Interruptions) They stated—

“The Indian Constituent Assembly has accepted the recommendation of the Minorities Advisory Committee concerning electoral reservation for the Sikh backward classes on lines with Hindu scheduled classes. This is an act of justice proceeding from sympathetic understanding of the basis of this demand of the Sikhs and the depth of their feeling about it. This was demand No. 1 of the Sikhs and touched the tenderest chord in their heart. We should be sincerely grateful to the Constituent Assembly and the eminent leaders of the country, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who have relieved the agony in the soul of the Sikhs over this matter. Our thanks are particularly due to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his vigorously piloting this motion through the Minorities Advisory Committee and the Constituent Assembly. The abolition of reservation for religious minorities has been supported by the Sikhs as an important step towards the evolution of one nationality in the full confidence that the majority community will justify the faith placed in it by the minorities in this connection”.

A copy of this statement was sent with a covering letter to the Governor of the Punjab, saying among other things that “the outside world may not know it but responsible Sikhs and our humble selves are very gratefully conscious of the great contribution made by Your Excellency towards the solution of the problem of Sikh backward classes”. It is, therefore, wrong to say that their demand has not been met. (Interruptions)

Sardar Gopal Singh: Read a statement of Master Tara Singh on this subject. (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: We have now reached the last item on our agenda, that is, the disposal of amendments to the motion of thanks. I will now take up the amendments one by one.

The following Members have expressed their desire to withdraw the amendments standing against their names : —

Shri Prabodh Chandra.
Shri Dev Raj Sethi.
Shri Badlu Ram.
Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat,
Shri Mool Chand.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendments standing in the names of these Members be withdrawn ?

The amendments were by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—
'but regret that

- (a) (i) no mention has been made therein about any steps intended to be taken to ameliorate the conditions of the ruralites in the State;
- (ii) no steps are suggested for reducing the proportion of expenditure in the State to the revenues realised from the rural and urban areas;
- (b) no proposals have been made therein about ameliorating the economic conditions of the Harijans and raising their standard of living,
- (c) no suggestions have been made for stopping the wastage of hides and bones in the State.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is:—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:—

but regret that nothing has been done or proposed to be done to fulfil the promise held out to the Harijans by the Government.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—
but regret that--

- (a) nothing has been done or proposed to be done to abolish immediately the increase in the water rates, so as to bring it to pre-partition level;

- (b) nothing has been done to abolish the realisation of the sales tax from the buyer which is an unnecessary burden on him;
- (c) no steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to move the Government offices to the plains without delay;
- (d) the Government has failed to give timely adequate relief to the famine stricken area in the Hissar District;
- (e) no steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to ameliorate the conditions of subordinate services.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon. Member, Sardar Achhar Singh wish to withdraw his amendment ?

Sardar Achhar Singh : I wish to withdraw only part (b) of my amendment. Let part (a) be put to vote.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following may be added :—
but regret that it does not refer to the prevailing curtailment of civil liberties in the State;

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—
but regret that no steps have been taken to fulfil the promises made to the Scheduled Castes from time to time to improve their lot.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon. Member, Sardar Chanan Singh want to withdraw his amendment appearing as No. 11 on the list of amendments ?

Sardar Chanan Singh : Yes Sir, I withdraw it.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn

Mr. Speaker : Next amendment stands in the name of Shri Teg Ram.

Shri Teg Ram : Sir, I wish to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—

but regret that the Address fails to take note of the *sem* destroying large areas of fertile land.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added : —

but regret that—

(a) nothing has been said in the Address to ameliorate the conditions of the subordinate services;

(b) nothing has been said about solving the refugee problem.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the noes have it". This opinion was challenged and division was claimed. Mr. Speaker, after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the division was unnecessarily claimed

The motion was declared lost.

At this stage when the Secretary was saying something to the hon. Speaker, Sardar Saroop Singh raised a point of order.

Sardar Saroop Singh : On a point of order. Can any one prompt the Chair ?

Mr. Speaker : I strongly object to the use of the word 'prompting'. It is not a stage acting. The hon. Member should know that I am always to be guided and advised by my Secretary. The hon. Member should, therefore, withdraw his remarks.

Sardar Saroop Singh : I withdraw them, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Now amendment No. 15 on the list of amendments stands in the name of Shri Ranjit Singh ; Does the hon. Member withdraw it ?

Shri Ranjit Singh : Yes, Sir, I withdraw it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:—

but regret that no definite proposals are made to better the lot of the Scheduled Castes.

The motion was lost

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the the following be added:—

but regret that -

- (a) no provision at all is made for the removal of illiteracy from among the adult population,
- (b) no mention is made about the development of secondary and higher education in the State;
- (c) no attention whatsoever has been paid for improving the lot of the teachers;
- (d) no time limit has been stated for fully nationalising the text-books.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added;

but regret that--

- (a) no assurance has been given for making an enquiry into the allegations of mal practices in the general elections;
- (b) no steps have been proposed for immediately using fully the electricity generated at Joginder Nagar and thus meeting the needs of the rural population and agriculture in the State;
- (c) no promise has been given of conferring proprietary rights in land on refugee landowners at an early date nor has a pledge been given to those landowners whose valid claims for land have not yet been met;
- (d) no assurance has been given for compensating displaced persons who have abandoned immovable property both in rural and urban areas;

- (e) no assurance has been given to remove the distinction between landowner loanees and non-landowner loanees in the case of Government loans;
- (f) no steps have been taken for starting an Agriculture Corporation on the lines of the Industrial Financing Corporation for financing agriculture.
- (g) no intention has been expressed to accelerate the pace of Transport Nationalisation against the pledge for postponing the same for three years.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—

but regret that—

- (a) no steps have been proposed for securing the removal of discrimination against the Sikhs in the matter of enumeration of Scheduled Castes and otherwise;
- (b) nothing has been said regarding the General Elections of S. G. P. C. and Local Gurdwara Committees which are over-due.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—

but regret that—

- (a) the Government is not taking immediate steps to nationalise all the educational institutions;
- (b) nothing has been said about the speeding up of land consolidation;
- (c) nothing has been said about the liberal issue of arms licences in the rural areas.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The following hon. Members have expressed their desire to withdraw the amendments standing in their names :—

Shri Rizaq Ram
 Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat
 Shri Balwant Rai Tayal and
 Shri Mohammad Yasin Khan.

[Mr. Speaker]

Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendments standing in the names of these Members be withdrawn ?

Honourable Members : Yes.

The amendments were, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker Question is—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added :—

but regret that no steps are indicated therein (i) for bringing about radical retrenchment in the top-heavy administration of the State ;
(ii) for the removal of controls.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : After having disposed of the amendments, some of which have been withdrawn and others lost I now put the main motion before the House. Question is —

That the Members of this House assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses assembled together.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned sine die.

Punjab Legislative Assembly

Debates

14th June, 1952.

VOL. II—NO. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 14th June, 1952

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4, at 11 a.m.
of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR

Mr. Speaker : As the hon. Members are aware, the main business on to-day's agenda is the presentation of the Budget Estimates for the year 1952-53 by the Finance Minister. Ordinarily, questions are the first item on every sitting's agenda. I attach great value to this item and hold the opinion that it should not be suspended as far as possible. The position today, however, is such that the Finance Minister has, after delivering his Budget speech and presenting the Budget Estimates to this House to be present in the Legislative Council at 12-30 p.m. Since it will take him more than an hour to finish his business here, he will be getting late for the Council in case the question hour is not dispensed with to-day. Therefore, I suspend the question hour.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. May I draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that the question hour cannot be dispensed with, without a regular motion being put before the House ?

Mr. Speaker : Under Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly the Speaker can dispense with the question hour and in exercise of that power I have dispensed with the question hour today. I do not come un-informed.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

T. A. DRAWN BY GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE STATE.

50. **Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the total amount of travelling allowance received by each Gazetted Officer in the State during the year 1951-52 ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The time and expense involved in collectin the information would not be commensurate with the advantage likely to accrue from it.

T. A. PAID TO NON-GAZETTED GOVERNMENT.
SERVANTS IN THE STATE

51. **Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total amount paid as Travelling Allowance to all the Non-Gazetted Government Servants in the State during the year 1951-52 ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : As the time and expenditure to be spent in collecting the information asked for will be too great, it will not be commensurate with the advantage to accrue from it.

TRACTORS.

52. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of tractors registered in the whole of Punjab and in Fazilka Tehsil separately in each year from the 1st of January 1948 to the 30th April, 1952 ;
- (b) the number of tractors purchased by the Government and the public separately during the period from 1st January 1948 to 30th April, 1952 ;

- (c) the area of land cultivated with the help of these tractors in each of the above mentioned years ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The reply to this question is not yet ready, it will be supplied to the member when ready.

TENANTS EJECTED FROM LANDS UNDER TRACTOR CULTIVATION.

53 Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of tenants ejected from lands under tractor cultivation in the state during the period from the 1st January, 1948 to the 30th April, 1952 ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The reply to this question is not yet ready, it will be supplied to the member when ready.

CULTIVATION OF LAND BY TENANTS IN THE STATE

54. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of tenants in the State on the 1st of January, 1948 and the 30th of April 1952, respectively, together with the area of land cultivated by them on the aforesaid dates ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The reply to this question is not yet ready it will be supplied to the member when ready.

EJECTIONMENT OF TENANTS.

55. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to State the number of tenants ejected by process of Law in the State and Tehsil Fazilka separately in each year from 15th November, 1947 to 31st May, 1952 ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

Period		No. of ejectments.	
(1)	1-10-47 to 30-9-48	...	13
(2)	1-10-48 to 30-9-49	...	102

(Minister For Development)

(3)	1-10-49 to 30-9-50	...	...	169
(4)	1-10-50 to 30-9-51	...	...	212
(5)	1-10-51 to 31-5-52	...	...	119

CULTIVATION OF LAND BY TRACTORS.

56. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the expenditure incurred per acre on land cultivated with the help of a tractor and that incurred by using a bullock-plough respectively as well as the average yields per acre of such lands in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(1)	Charges for ploughing cultivated land with tractors	...	...	Rs. 9/- per acre
(2)	Charges for ploughing with bullocks.			Rs. 9'84 per acre

Yields

(1)	Yields by bullock cultivation (barani wheat)	...	...	6 maunds per acre
(2)	Yield by bullock cultivation (canal irrigated wheat)	...	...	10 maunds per acre
(3)	Yield by bullock cultivation (well irrigated wheat)	...	...	12 maunds per acre

With tractor cultivation the yield is about 25 percent higher in each case.

PERSONS OWNING MORE THAN 50 ACRES LAND IN THE STATE.

57. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of persons owning more than 50 acres of land in the State on the 1st of January, 1947 and on the 31st of January, 1952 respectively ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

The required information is not available.

On 1st January, 1947, the Province was a joint one and the figures, if collected, will include the number of Muslim Evacuee Landowners. Probably the figures are required only of Indian nationals. Figures collected by the Punjab Land Reforms Committee during 1951 show that there were 59,974 Landowners owning more than 50 acres.

**FARM LABOUR MINIMUM WAGES ENQUIRY
COMMITTEE.**

58. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Farm Labour Minimum Wages Enquiry Committee set up by the Punjab Government is still functioning or has it been dissolved ;

(b) whether any report was submitted by this Committee to the Government ;

(c) the efforts made by Government to ameliorate the conditions of the farm labour ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh :

(a) The Tripartite Committee constituted under Section 5(1) (a) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, has since been dissolved after submitting its report.

(b) Yes. A copy of the notification fixing minimum wages is nclosed.

(c) The enforcement of the minimum wages for farm labour is being entrusted to the Revenue Department of the State, in addition to the Labour Department and this will go a long way towards improving the condition of the farm labour.

LABOUR AND PRINTING DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 12th March, 1951

No. 777-L P-51/868. The recommendations of the Committee, constituted under section (5) (1) (a) of the Minimum Wages Act 1948, in respect of Agriculture Labourers having been considered by Government, the Governor of the Punjab, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 3, read with subsection (2) of section 5 of the said Act, is pleased to fix the follow-

(Minister for Labour)

ing minimum rates of wages within the meaning of clause (iii) of subsection (i) of section 4 of this Act for the Agricultural Labourers in this State :—

A. Attached Labourer—Adult Male (Wholetime servant)

District	Minimum wages
Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Karnal and Ambala (excluding Morni sub-tehsil).	Rs. 300 a year or Rs. 25 a month with meals; or foodgrains of equivalent value with meals.
Simla, Kangra, Dalhousie area of Gurdaspur, Morni sub-tehsil of Ambala and Una Tehsil of Hoshiarpur.	Rs. 250 a year or Rs. 21 a month with meals; or foodgrains of equivalent value with meals.
Amritsar, Jullundur, Ferozepore, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur excluding Una Tehsil and Gurdaspur excluding Dalhousie area.	Rs. 360 a year or Rs. 30 a month with meals; or foodgrains of equivalent value with meals.

B. Casual labourer employed for specific operations.

Operation	District	Adult male	Adult female
Ploughing, Embanking, Sowing, or Manuring.	Hissar	Rs. 2 per day; or Rs. 1-8-0 per day with meals.	...
	Rohtak		
	Gurgaon		
	Karnal	Rs. 1-8-0 per day; or Re. 1 per day with meals.	...
	Ambala (excluding Morni sub-tehsil)		
	Simla		
Transplanting	Kangra	Rs. 2 per day; or Rs. 1-8-0 per day with meals.	...
	Una Tehsil of Hoshiarpur		
	Dalhousie area of Gurdaspur		
	Morni sub-tehsil of Ambala	Rs. 2-8-0 per day; or Rs. 2 per day with meals.	...
	Jullundur		
	Amritsar		
Weeding ...	Ludhiana	Rs. 1-4-0 per kanal	Rs. 1-4-0 per day with meals.
	Gurdaspur (excluding Dalhousie area)		
	Hoshiarpur (excluding Una tehsil)		
Weeding ...	Ferozepore	Rs. 1-8-0 per day; or Re. 1 per day with meals.	Rs. 1-4-0 per day; or Re. 1-12-0 per day with meals.
	Kangra		
	Other Districts		
Weeding ...	Hissar	Rs. 1-8-0 per day; or Re. 1 per day with meals.	Rs. 1-4-0 per day; or Re. 1-12-0 per day with meals.
	Rohtak		
	Karnal		
Weeding ...	Ambala (excluding Morni sub-tehsil)	Rs. 1-8-0 per day; or Re. 1 per day with meals.	Rs. 1-4-0 per day; or Re. 1-12-0 per day with meals.
	...		
	...		

B. Casual labourer employed for specific operations (contd)

Operation	District	Adult male	Adult female
Weeding- (contd.)	Hoshiarpur (exclud ing Una tahsil) Gurdaspur (exclud ing Dalhousie area)	Rs. 1-8-0 per day ; or Re. 1 per day with meals.	Rs. 1-4-0 per day ; or Re. -12- per day with meals.
	Simla		
	Kangra Gurgaon Morni sub-tahsil of Ambala Dalhousie area of Gurdaspur Una tahsil of Hosh- iarpur	Re. 1 per day.	Re. 0-12-0 per day.
	Amritsar Ludhiana Ferozepore Jullundur		
Irrigation	All districts	When irrigation is done by means of a <i>dhinkli</i> <i>chara</i> or <i>dal</i> , Rs. 2 per day ; or Rs. 1-8-0 per day with meals. When irrigation is done from a canal or by a persian wheel, Re 1 per day with meals.	...
Harvesting of wheat	Hissar	Rs. 2 per day or Rs. 1-8-0 per day with meals; or one <i>bhari</i> of unthreshed wheat plan- ts per day in accord- ance with the local practice.	Rs. 1-8-0 per day ; or Re 1 per day with meals ; or one <i>bhari</i> of unth- reshed wheat plants per day in accordance with the local practice.
	Other districts	One <i>bhari</i> of unthreshed wheat plants per day ; or 5 per cent of the crop harvested in ac- cordance with the local practice.	One <i>bhari</i> of un- threshed wheat plants per day; or 5 per cent of the crop harvested in accordance with the local practice
Threshing of wheat	Hissar Rohtak Gurgaon Karnal Ambala	Rs. 1-8-0 per day with meals.	..

[Minister of Labour]

B. Casual labourer employed for specific operations (contd.)

Operation	District	Adult male	Adult female
Threshing of wheat (contd.)	Simla Karnal Hoshiarpur Gurdaspur	Rs. 1-8-0 per day ; or Re. 1 per day with meals or 4 seers of wheat per day with meals, in accordance with the local custom.	...
Winnowing	Jullundur Ludhiana Ferozepore Amritsar All districts	6 seers of wheat per day. One seer of wheat per maund of wheat win- nowed,	... ...
To the <i>Jhoka</i> employed in connection with making of Gur.	All districts	Rs 1 8-0 per day with meals ; or 1 seer 4 chatak per maund of gur produced, in accord- ance with the local custom	...
Picking of cotton	All districts	1/16th of the <i>kapas</i> picked ; of Re 0-1-0 per seer of <i>kapas</i> in accordance with the local custom	1/16th of the <i>kapas</i> picked; or Re 0-1-0 per seer of <i>kapas</i> in accord- ance with the local custom .

NOTES. (1) The number of working hours per day, and the number and quality of meals to be given to the labourer will be according to local practice.

(2) The minimum rates of wages in all these cases shall come into force on 1st October, 1951.

P. M. ISMAIL,

Secretary to Government, Punjab
Health and Local Government Departments.

No. 7777-L P-51/869 dated the 12th March, 1951.

A COPY is forwarded to the Punjab State Supervisor, Agricultural Labour Enquiry, Simla-2, for information.

By order,

KISHAN CHAND,

SUPERINTENDENT LABOUR AND PRINTING,
for Secretary to Government, Punjab,
Health and Local Government Departments.

PUNJAB TENANTS (SECURITY OF TENURE)
AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

59. **Shri Teg Ram:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) the number and date of the letter, addressed to the officials of the Revenue Department by the Government, containing instructions and information, in connection with the extension of the Punjab Tenants (Security of Tenure) Amendment Act, enforced with effect from 24th December, 1951, to all the tenants of the State;

(b) the dates of issuing written or oral instructions to the patwaris of various districts;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that even after four months of the enforcement of this Act patwaris had received no official information and on being approached by peasants declared that they had no knowledge regarding any such enactment?

Sardar Partap Singh Karion:

(a) Letter No. 1206-R-52/705, dated the 3rd March, 1952.

(b) Not known.

(c) No. The Revenue Assistants were, however, asked to explain the provisions of the Act to the Tahsildars, Naib Tahsildars, Field Kanungos and Patwaris after collecting them, if necessary, either at Tahsil Headquarters or other suitable places, and to report to Government the fact that this has been done. The replies received from some of the local officers show that these orders were duly complied with. The Government, would be grateful if the hon. Member brings to the notice of the Government where the proper information was not conveyed.

COMPLETION OF GIRDAWARI IN TEHSIL FAZILKA.

60. **Shri Teg Ram:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(Shri Teg Ram)

(a) the dates of commencement and completion of Girdawari of Rabi crop in Tehsil Fazilka this year ;

(b) the period fixed for the revision of Girdawari ;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the Revenue Patwaris of Fazilka Tehsil were summoned to Ferozepore in connection with the allotment work as soon as they had completed Girdawri, with the result that the tenants were unable to get copies of khasra Girdawri from Patwaris for satisfying themselves regarding the Girdawri of the lands cultivated by them or filing objections against wrong entries within time ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) The Girdawari of Rabi crops was commenced in Fazilka Tehsil on the 11th March, 1952 and was completed by the 10th April, 1952.

(b) There is no period fixed for revision of Girdawari. The work carried out by the Patwaris is, however, checked by the field kanungos and higher revenue authorities during the girdawri period.

(c) The Patwaris were summoned to Ferozepore on or about the 22nd April, 1952 for completion of Rehabilitation work. It is true that only ten days were available for the tenants to secure Khasra Girdawaris from the Patwaris. I admit this was not a sufficient period for the tenants.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN KHUIAN SARVAR.

61. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of villages under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar having wells of drinking water together with the number of such wells which are in working order at present ;

(b) the number of kacha or pukka 'diggies' constructed in

these villages for collecting canal water for drinking purposes, which have been licensed by the Canal Department ;

(c) the arrangements for the supply of water to diggies for which no such licence has been issued ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) The number of villages under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar is 57. There are 82 wells for drinking water in all these villages. Of these 55 wells are in working order.

(b) One.

(c) No official arrangement exists.

M. B. HIGH SCHOOL, ABOHAR.

62. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of students on the rolls of the M. B. High School, Abohar, on the 15th May, 1952 ;

(b) the number of classes and their sections in this School on the above-mentioned date ;

(c) the number of class rooms including the office, the drawing room, the science room etc., together with the area of each room and the seating accommodation for the students therein ;

(d) the number of students of this School who cannot be accommodated in rooms at present ;

(e) the total number of teachers in the School and the number of those who did private tuition work in the year ending 31st of March, 1952 ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) 1,396

(Shri Jagat Narain)

(b) 10th	...	...	...	3 Sections.
9th	...	...	...	4 Sections.
8th	...	...	...	4 Sections
7th	...	...	...	4 Sections.
6th	...	...	...	5 Sections.
5th	...	...	...	6 Sections.

(c) Twelve,

Area of ten rooms (23' x 22' each)

Area of two rooms (24' x 18½' each)

Each room can accommodate 42 boys. Four rooms measuring 23' x 22' are under construction. Provision has also been made for the construction of five more rooms in the budget for 1952-53.

(d) 857.

(e) Thirty seven. Twenty nine teachers did private tuition work. They have been warned.

TUITION WORK DONE BY TEACHERS OF M. B. HIGH SCHOOL ABOHAR.

63. Shri Teg Ram: Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Education Department has framed any rules for teachers for doing private tuition work;

(b) whether it is necessary for teachers to obtain previous permission of the Education Department for doing private tuition work and adhere to the rules framed by the Department;

(c) whether any record is kept of the time spent on private tuition work done by a teacher;

(d) the number of tuitions and the monthly income on account of tuition work done by the teachers of M. B. High School, Abohar ?

Shri Jagat Narain:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Nil.

REALIZATION OF ABIANA FROM VILLAGE GAMJAL

64. Shri Teg Ram: Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(a) the total area of village Gamjal (P. S. Khuian Sarwar) situated on the tail of Malukpur branch of Sirhind Canal together with the area of this village under canal irrigation and the area of barani land;

(b) the acreage of irrigated land together with the amount of Abiana which is realised by the Government on this account;

(c) the year in which the maximum amount of Abiana was realized from this village during the last 25 years together with the amount thereof?

Chaudhri Lehri Singh: (a) Total area of village Gamjal is 3,778 acres out of which canal irrigated is 3,338 acres, and the remaining uncommanded area *viz.* 440 acres is presumably barani area.

(b) Acreage of irrigation in the year 1951-52 was 431.06 acres and Abiana was Rs. 2,579/3/-

(c) Rs. 6,022/1/- on 1,633 acres in 1937-38.

MARKETING COMMITTEE, ABOHAR.

65. Shri Teg Ram: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) the date and reasons for the suspension of the Marketing Committee, Abohar and when it is going to be re-instated;

(b) the number of the members of this Committee since its establishment;

(Shri Teg Ram)

(c) the number of tenants and Harijans amongst them;

(d) the annual income of this Committee since its establishment;

(e) the funds with the Committee at present;

(f) the amount of money spent by this Committee annually, since its establishment, on various items of rural uplift, itemwise ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon. (a) (First Part) Notification regarding constitution of the Market Committee, Abohar was cancelled on the 11th August, 1951, because the original orders constituting it were void *ab initio*.

Second part. I am sorry that delay has been caused but it will be reconstituted in the near future.

(b) 16

(c) Nil.

(d) Year.

Income.

Rs.

1941-42 (4months).

4,594

1942-43

...

17,181

1943-44

...

24,072

1944-45

...

20,403

1945-46

...

19,905

1946-47

...

16,720

1947-48

...

6,956

1948-49

...

19,443

1949-50

...

16,249

1950-51

...

20,532

1951-52

47,981

(e) Cash in hand on 14th June, 1952.

Rs. 69, 321

Investments

Rs. 55,061

Total:-

...

Rs. 1,24,382

(f) 1941-42

...

Nil

1942-43

...

Nil

1943-44

...

Nil

1944-45

...

Rs. 1,064

Cost of Radio Set for rural uplift and collection and dissemination of rates of production in other ruling markets.

Year	For providing cold water to villagers.	Collection and dissemination of rates of produce in other ruling markets.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs-	Rs.
1945-46	328	162	490
1946-47	445	301	746
1947-48	863	56	919
1948-49	852	131	983
1949-50	1,101	123	1,224
		Locust destruction	
1950-51	1,201	175 300	1,676
1951-52	644	182 4,700	5,526
1952-53	...	... 74	74

DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members of the House, before the business put on to day's agenda is taken up, I would like to make a reference to the demonstration that was being staged in front of the main gate of this building a short while ago. It is true that it was made outside the Assembly Chamber and was a matter for the Government to deal with, yet I consider it the duty of the Speaker to give protection to every hon. Member of this House within the precincts of this building against such demonstrations on the part of any party or group of people and, therefore, I think I can take notice of such things. I would like to have the opinion of the House as to whether any group of people can be permitted to hurl accusations and allegations, directly or indirectly, on some hon. Members of this House or make any attempt to interfere with the performance of their duties within the precincts of this building. As it is a difficult and complex matter, I do not expect the hon. Members to give their opinion here and now. I would, however, request those of them who are conversant with law to give me their considered opinion about it on Monday.

I now call upon the Minister for Finance to present the Budget for the year 1952-53.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh):- Sir, It is my proud privilege to present its first Budget to a Legislature elected

(Minister for Finance)

Intorduction on the basis of adult suffrage and joint electorates under the Constitution of India, which incorporates the principles of freedom and social justice, that have for so long been the hope and aspiration of our people. I am fully alive to the grave responsibility which is placed on us in the confidence we have received from the mass of Punjabis. I also realise that under our democratic form of Government, if we are unable to shape our policies and actions in a manner which really serves the people, and takes them out of the abyss of ignorance, disease and poverty, it is open to them, in the last analysis:

“ to shatter it to bits,

And then—remould it nearer to the heart's desire.”

2. I am conscious of the fact that Budgets are apt to be regarded as lucky-dips from which each participator hopes to get exactly what he wishes. I am also aware that perhaps Budgets more than any other legislative activity give scope for assuming that Government is wrong and that expenditure could be better redistributed. I am, however, sustained by the thought that each one of us is here to do his duty in making a correct adjustment between the real needs of this State, and the grave limitations of our financial resources. I seek your indulgence, therefore, for your time and patience; and an earnest study of the material placed before you.

3. This is the second Budget prepared by the Punjab Government for the year 1952-53. An interim Budget was presented to Parliament in February and though it showed the financial picture for the year, it was calculated merely to continue the existing level of expenditure and income so as to carry on the administration till a popular Government had been formed. Votes-on-Account were granted by Parliament for expenditure during the first four months of the financial year ending July, 1952. It will be realised that the gap between the popular Ministry taking over and the presenting of its Budget has been too short for a thorough exami-

nation of the State finances in all their details. I am very conscious of this limitation and crave the patience of Members in the results of it. While it has been comparatively easy to think of new schemes of expenditure, there has not been adequate time to study the whole financial set-up to determine whether redistribution of funds on any large scale could be effected, and in our comparatively tight budgetary position, it has been difficult to determine the relative priorities which are to be given to the various demands on the State Revenues. I cannot, therefore, make any claim to presenting an altogether new garment and, indeed, even if there had been more time, a large degree of continuity with the work of previous Governments would have been essential to obtain the best results from schemes already in progress. I can, and do, however, claim that in this Budget, there are adequate indications of the direction of our policy. I believe that in spite of our limitations of time and finance my colleagues and I are able to place before you a Budget in which there are powerful elements of a turn towards constructive progress and development. For future years, we propose to build and improve steadily on these beginnings, and to work for this achievement without rest,

4. While Parliament has voted funds for carrying on administration for the first four months of the financial year, this Budget is being presented as if it contained provisions for the year as a whole. This is the only way to ensure an overall picture of the financial position for the year. The House will, therefore, be requested to vote demands for the whole financial year, and will simultaneously repeal the Act for Votes-on-Account already passed by Parliament. This means, in fact, that these Votes-on-Account are absorbed in the financial statement, and demands, for the year.

It is also necessary to present separately and ask for Votes-on-Account, in advance of the passing of this Budget, for the recoupment of the Punjab Contingency Fund, for provision for the purchase of foodgrains, and some other items. The Punjab Contingency Fund of Rs. 50 lakhs provides Government a means of meeting unforeseen and urgent expenditure in advance of vote of the Legislature. There have been unexpected demands on this Fund owing

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largely to scarcity conditions in Hissar. A recoupment of the Fund in advance of the passing of the Budget is, therefore, necessary. This does not mean additional expenditure over and above that in the Budget, as demands already met from the Fund have been included in the Budget figures,

In regard to a Vote-on-Account for the purchase of foodgrains, this arises from the circumstance that arrivals of wheat in our markets have been exceptionally good, so that the amount voted for the purchase of foodgrains by Parliament is considered inadequate to last to the end of July. It is, therefore, necessary to ask for a Vote-on-Account in advance of passing the main Budget. Here, again, no additional expenditure, over the Budget figures, is involved, as the total amount required for the year is included in the Budget.

I will request the House to expedite its verdict in regard to these advance demands, so that there may be no hold-up in the administration.

5. Before dealing with the figures in the Revenue Account of the State, it is necessary to explain two **Changes in Accounting Procedure**—partures from previous accounting procedure, which have an influence on this Account. These are :—

(1) In the Joint Punjab it was customary to deal with an Extraordinary Account, both on the expenditure and receipts sides, as distinct from the Revenue Account. The reason for this was that the Joint Punjab had large Government owned waste lands, from which, owing to colonisation, it derived substantial incomes. It was felt that it would not be proper to include such income, which could not be regarded as recurring in the Revenue Account. An Extraordinary Account was, therefore, opened to deal with this item as well as others of similar nature. This procedure has continued after Partition, though the circumstances justifying it no longer exist. I propose, therefore, that from this year onwards, the Extraordinary Account should be merged in the Revenue Account. Budget figures for 1952-53 have been drawn up accordingly.

(2) Previous to year 1952-53, the instalment of Rehabilitation Loans other than Housing Loans, payable by the State Government to the Centre were debited to Revenue, whereas any recoveries from Loanees were not credited to Revenue but were credited to the Loan Account of the State. This meant that the Revenue Account of the State was put to an unnecessary strain, and in fact did not represent the true position. With effect from the year 1952-53, therefore, instalments of the principal of these loans payable to Central Government are shown under the Loan Account. The interest on these loans continues to be shown as debited to the Revenue Account.

This procedure is financially quite sound, and in fact realistic. It is recognised, however, that there is in the recovery of rehabilitation loans, the risk of losses, which must be borne finally by the Revenue Account. Simultaneous, therefore, with the transfer to the Loan Account described above, it has been decided to create a Special Deposit Account, the accumulations in which will eventually be utilized for meeting expenditure of the State Government's share of losses on rehabilitation loans. A sum of Rs. 22 lakhs has been provided, by debit to the Revenue Account, for the current financial year by way of a beginning to create this Special Deposit Account.

The result of this change will be that in comparing figures as between 1951-52 and 1952-53, regard will have to be had to the fact that the Revenue Account has been partly relieved of this item. The exact figures are a transfer of Rs. 78 lakhs from the Revenue Account to the Loan Account, as against a debit of Rs. 22 lakhs from the Revenue Account to the Special Deposit Fund. The Revenue Account, therefore, compared with that of previous year, gets a credit of Rs. 56 lakhs that is Rs. 78 lakhs minus Rs. 22 lakhs.

6. In the Budget now presented, Revenue Receipts are estimated at Rs. 17.05 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 17.48 lakhs, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 43 lakhs. It is the position of the Revenue Account which determines the surplus or deficit in the State Budget.

It is possibly useful to compare briefly these figures with those

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presented in the 1952-53 Budget to Parliament, and for the previous years 1950-51 and 1951-52.

The interim Budget presented to Parliament showed a nominal surplus of one lakh, Revenue Receipts being assessed at Rs 16,71 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 16,70 lakhs. If, however, the expedient of including the Extraordinary Account in the Revenue Account had been adopted, there would have been a deficit of Rs. 3 lakhs, Revenue Receipts being Rs. 16,91 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure Rs. 16,94 lakhs. It will thus be seen that as compared with the Budget presented to Parliament there is an increase of Rs. 14 lakhs on Receipts and an increase of Rs. 54 lakhs in Expenditure. In regard to Receipts, the main improvements are increased Revenue expected from State Excise Duties (Rs. 31 lakhs); from Civil Works (Rs. 8 lakhs); and from minor items and adjustments (Rs. 10 lakhs), making a total of Rs. 49 lakhs. Against this, however, there is an estimated drop in Receipts from Irrigation (20 Lakhs) as a result of less expenditure and, therefore, smaller receipts on Grow-More-Food Schemes financed from the food Bonus; and a drop of Rs. 15 lakhs on account of Extraordinary Receipts from the Land Reclamation and Mechanical Cultivation Scheme, which from October, 1952 or thereabout is now proposed to be financed from a Revolving Fund not entering the Revenue Account. These reductions total Rs. 35 lakhs leaving a net increase of Rs. 14 Lakhs with regard to the increased expenditure of 54 lakhs over the Budget presented to Parliament, the main items are on account of Land Revenue (Rs 8 lakhs); Education (Rs 5 lakhs); Civil Works (Rs 7 lakhs); Famine (Rs. 12 lakhs); Miscellaneous Rs. 23 lakhs) and Community Projects (Rs. 15 lakhs). As against the above figures which total Rs. 70 lakhs, there is an estimated reduction in Irrigation Revenue Expenditure of Rs. 16 lakhs making a net total of Rs. 54 lakhs.

Comparing the 1952-53 figures with those of 1951-52, the position in the later year was; Revenue Receipts. Rs, 17,39 lakhs as against Revenue Expenditure of Rs. 17,00 lakhs, resulting in a surplus of of Rs, 39 lakhs. According to these figures and those of 1952-53 there is a fall in Receipts of Rs. 34 lakhs for the current year.

This fall is mainly accounted for by Irrigation (Rs. 24 lakhs) and Agriculture (Rs. 10 lakhs). These items are, however, apparent rather than real, since they represent Receipts against which there would be corresponding expenditure from earmarked special funds. Turning now to a comparison of 1951-52 expenditure with that of 1952-53, there is an apparent increase of Rs. 48 lakhs. If, however, to this is added the advantage to the Revenue Account of Rs. 56 lakhs, resulting from the transfer of the payment of Rehabilitation loans to the Loan Account, the increase in Expenditure is Rs. 1,04 lakhs. This increase is accounted for as follows:—

Land Revenue	...	...	... Rs. 20 lakhs.
Education	...	...	... Rs. 8 lakhs.
General Administration	...	...	... Rs. 8 lakhs.
Medical	...	...	... Rs. 7 lakhs.
Civil Works	...	...	... Rs. 10 lakhs.
Famine	...	...	... Rs. 12 lakhs.
Miscellaneous	...	...	... Rs. 20 lakhs.
Community Projects	...	...	... Rs. 15 lakhs.
Other small Items and Adjustments			... Rs. 4 lakhs.

Total			... Rs. 1,04 lakhs.

It is hardly necessary to make a detailed comparison between the proposed Budget for 1952-53 and 1950-51. It is adequate to mention that Revenue Receipts for that year were Rs. 16,87 lakhs as against Rs. 17,05 lakhs for the current year; and Revenue Expenditure was Rs. 16,00 lakhs as against Rs. 17,48 lakhs for the current year.

The conclusion to be drawn from the above analysis is that where as Revenue Receipts call for no special comment, as the variations over the last two years are either favourable or nominal, Revenue Expenditure is now assessed at Rs. 17,48 lakhs. It will be clearer from subsequent parts of this speech as to the objects for which this expenditure is to be incurred.

7. Capital Expenditure included in the Budget amounts to

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Rs. 33,88 lakhs as against Rs 20,56 lakhs for **Extent and Character** 1951-52, and Rs. 10,02 lakhs for 1950-51. In **of Capital Expen-** the case of the Capital Account a comparison **di'ture** with the expenditure of previous years is not instructive, as the extent of the expenditure depends on the relative progress made with various schemes in hand, and those undertaken afresh. It is likely that Capital Expenditure during the next few years will go up considerably as more progress is made with the Bhakra-Nangal Project, which consumes the overwhelming bulk of such expenditure. In the current year Rs. 22,53 lakhs are being asked for this Project. I do not propose to undertake a detailed analysis of Capital Expenditure, as this will already be found at paragraphs 16 onwards of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum. I do wish, however, to mention some general considerations in regard to it.

There is, first of all, the question of the source from which finances will be obtained. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 33,88 lakhs as much as Rs. 29,19 lakhs is to be found from loans anticipated from the Central Government; another Rs. 1,30 lakhs represents amounts available from loans already taken. The balance of Rs. 3,39 lakhs is to be met from the State.

The second point in regard to Capital Expenditure which I should like to mention is the very great importance, for future financial stability, that this expenditure should be incurred, as far as possible, on productive, or at least on self supporting schemes. It is, of course impossible to make a rigid rule, particularly in the circumstances of this State, which has to create assets lost by it in the Joint Punjab, that no unproductive or risky expenditure should be incurred on the Capital side. The general aim, however must be that unproductive or risky expenditure must be restricted to inescapable, necessary items. Unfortunately it has not been possible to avoid commitments of an unproductive or risky character. I bring this point to notice as it is an important factor in the long-term financial stability of the the State. In regard to the expenditure proposed for the current year, I would classify Rs. 26,55 lakhs as falling definitely within the productive or self-liquidating class. This figure includes expenditure on schemes such as Bhakra-

Nangal, Community Projects, Grow-More-Food, Food, Purchase, Electricity Schemes, Bus Services and Irrigation Establishment Charges. Another Rs. 6,27 lakhs I would classify as mixed. This consists of schemes some of which are supposed to be productive or self-liquidating; and may well prove to be so, but about which there is some element of risk; as well as of schemes which are partly productive and partly unproductive. In this class I include expenditure on the Ferozepore Canals, the Chandigarh Project, Rehabilitation Works, Industrial Areas, and the Industrial Finance Corporation. It will be noticed that the amount involved is large, and it must be the endeavour of this Government to ensure that such of these schemes as have been put through on the assumption of being productive, or at least self-liquidating, actually achieve this position. The balance expenditure amounts to Rs. 1,06 lakhs and is definitely unproductive. This consists of two items relating to Civil Works (Rs. 1,01 lakhs) and the Commuted Value of Pensions (Rs. 5 lakhs.) As to the former an attempt has been made to restrict such expenditure to the minimum considered essential.

8. The Loan Account of this State is supposed to be self-liquidating and comprises varying sums of money advanced for various purposes. Here **Character and Ex-** tent of Loan Account again, however, a word of caution is necessary.

In the circumstances of this State it has been necessary to advance large loans for Rehabilitation purposes. It is doubtful whether these loans are, in all cases, adequately secure. In considering the Loan Account also, therefore, it is necessary that precautions should be taken to ensure that risky loans are only advanced where this is considered inescapable.

The loans proposed for 1952-53 comprise gross advances of Rs. 2,24 lakhs, as against estimated recoveries of Rs. 85 lakhs, making a net advance of Rs. 1,39 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the year 1951-52 are respectively, gross advances Rs. 1,79 lakhs, estimated recoveries Rs. 1,02 lakhs and net advances of Rs. 77 lakhs.

The main items for which loans are proposed in 1952-53 are :—

(i) Rehabilitation Rs. 1,32 lakhs.
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(Minister for Finance)

(ii) Grow-More-Food Schemes ...	Rs. 25 lakhs.
(iii) Taccavi for seed, bullocks and fodder (for scarcity areas) ...	Rs. 45 lakhs.
(iv) Government servants ...	Rs. 6 lakhs.

Total	Rs. 2,08 lakhs.

The balance of Rs. 16 lakhs, to make a gross total of Rs. 2,24 lakhs is composed of smaller items for varying purposes. From the above details, it will be seen that loans relating to items (i) and (iii) are of somewhat doubtful security, whereas loans relating to items (ii) and (iv) may be considered secure.

9. At this stage, it will be useful to give some information as to the total debt liability of the Punjab resulting from its transactions during the past and those proposed for 1952-53. The total debt of this State, excluding its share of the debt which still remains to be taken over from the West Punjab, and after accounting for such repayments as have been made, is estimated on the 1st April, 1952, at Rs. 58,02 lakhs. As a result of the liabilities proposed in the Budget for the current year, this debt will increase by Rs. 30,73 lakhs, making a total of Rs. 87,71 lakhs, after allowing for repayments estimated at Rs. 1,04 lakhs. This is no small figure for a State with the revenues of the Punjab. Whether it will, in fact, create financial difficulties, depends partly on our success in making the productive schemes pay their way, and bring a profit and partly in our success, and luck, in reducing, or eliminating losses on unproductive and risky schemes. Some factors in the situation have already been mentioned in dealing with the Capital and Loan Accounts.

Here it may be useful to indicate the extent of the debt which arises from Rehabilitation purposes. Up to, and including 1951-52, our total loan for Rehabilitation purposes stood at Rs. 12,66 lakhs, to which may be added Rs. 2,04 lakhs proposed for 1952-53, making a gross total of Rs. 14,70 lakhs. Of this amount, we have repaid

Rs. 1,91 lakhs by the end of 1951-52, so that after allowing for a repayment of Rs. 93 lakhs during 1952-53 our net liability on account of these loans will be Rs. 11,86 lakhs. Allowing for the doubtful security of some of these loans, and even taking into consideration the fact that the Government of India have agreed to share losses on an equal basis, the character and extent of this liability alone represents no small risk.

10. I have endeavoured so far to give under each paragraph of the accounts the financial picture of the **Financial Position**, Budget proposals for 1952-53. It is possible **1952-53—Summary** now to summarise the position. These proposals involve a Revenue Deficit of Rs. 43 lakhs, a Capital Expenditure of Rs. 33,88 lakhs, and a Loan Expenditure comprising Rs. 2,24 lakhs gross and Rs. 1,39 lakhs net. As a result of this Budget, the debt liability of this State will be increased from Rs. 58,02 lakhs to Rs. 87,71 lakhs. I have also pointed out that there is reason to believe that some of the liabilities incurred under the Capital and Loan Accounts will not bring a return of the money invested.

This, in a sense, completes the financial position. I do not propose to go into detailed reasons for variations in expenditure and receipts in the Revenue Account, nor do I propose to inflict on the House a summary of the activities of each of the Departments. I do not think that this serves any useful purpose, particularly for a new Legislature. In regard to detailed reasons for variations, these have been dealt with at some length in the Finance Secretary's Memorandum. There will be an opportunity for a full discussion about particular Departments when voting grants. I propose, therefore, for the rest of my statement to consider specially, and in some detail, those subjects where Government has proposed changes or additions to existing arrangements. Such an exposition will help in bringing out the direction along which this Government wishes to frame its policy. I will also deal with such items and schemes as are of special interest.

11. This Government proposes to make as speedy and effi-

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cient progress as possible in work relating to **Some Items of Ex-** the Consolidation of Holdings, and the **penditure relating** nisation of areas which will be irrigated by the **to Land Revenue.** Bhakra-Nangal Project. In regard to consolidation, the present position is that the Department dealing with consolidation was amalgamated with that of Revenue from April, 1951. A programme of work was drawn up selecting one Tahsil in each district, for completion of consolidation operations in two years. In this way it was hoped that consolidation would be completed for the whole State within a period of 8 years. This Government proposes to ensure that this Programme is fulfilled, and a scheme is under the detailed consideration of the Development Minister at present, to examine whether it is possible to improve on this programme. In the Budget before you a provision of Rs. 40,21,820 has been made for consolidation work. This includes an additional item of Rs. 74,000 (round) on account of the proposed appointment of whole-time Settlement Officers for consolidation work, which Government consider essential if the programme is to be achieved.

In regard to the colonisation of areas which will be irrigated by the Bhakra-Nangal Project, here again it is the intention of Government that work should be speeded up, so that all preliminary arrangements are complete well before the arrival of water. These arrangements extend not only to the necessary alignment operations required for canal irrigation, but also to the establishing of essential communications and markets where and if this is found useful. A sum of Rs. 1,84,800 has been provided for 1952-53 on the establishment required for colonisation measures.

We are most anxious to achieve a constructive, and, we hope, happy settlement in the landowner and tenant relationship; in particular, to insure that the ejection of tenants, for inadequate cause, should be stopped effectively and finally. This is one of the first problems that engaged the Ministry's attention, and a Land Reforms Committee will investigate it thoroughly. We recognise that any continued uncertainty on this vital subject is to

the detriment of agricultural production, and is potential of even graver trouble. This Government will, therefore, do its utmost to achieve a defined and fair equation between landowner and tenant as quickly as possible.

12. This Government proposes to pay the fullest possible attention to the spread and improvement of education, and I am glad to be able to report that even at the short time at our disposal, we have been able to make very definite concrete progress towards improvement, and reflect this in the Budget for the current year.

In regard to the remuneration of teachers, it has been decided, and provision has been made, to merge into a single grade, the three scales now applicable to Anglo-Vernacular Teachers, and to Vernacular Teachers. Similarly, the two scales of pay applicable to Women J. A. V. Teachers are also to be merged. The result of this is that as against the split-up of grades at present, there will be the following grades:—

Anglo-Vernacular Teachers	... Rs. 90—5—150/10— 190/10—220/10— 300
Vernacular Teachers	... Rs. 50—3—80/4— 100/105—7— 140/10—220
Women J. A. V. Teachers	... Rs. 70—5—150/10— 190/10—220

The result of this change will be improved prospects for this class of teachers taking their whole career into consideration. At present they are restricted as between one grade and another according to the percentage of vacancies in each, the higher grades having a very much smaller number of vacancies than the lower. It will now be possible for a teacher to run straight through the whole revised grade. The initial expenditure to Government on this account is small, but it is estimated that the liability which will increase from year to year will get to a peak of an additional expenditure of Rs. 6½ lakhs per annum in a period of 15 to 20 years.

(Minister for Finance)

It has also been decided to give a higher starting pay of Rs. 200 per mensem, to 1st Class M. A.s and M. Sc.s recruited in the college cadre of Rs 150—10—350. Here, again, it is expected that this will attract better qualified teachers to our colleges.

This Government has accepted the principle of the progressive nationalisation of text-books. A provision of Rs. 5,65,000 is being made for this purpose in the Budget before you ; as against this a receipt of Rs. 2,50,000 is expected from the sale-proceeds of books sold this year. In fixing prices of text-books care will be taken that these are lower than those which students have to pay at present. Now that the preliminary ground has been broken, it is hoped to make rapid advances in achieving nationalisation.

In order to assist the development of education amongst women in the Ambala Division, where there is so far no Government college for women, it has been decided, as a first step, to establish a hostel at Rohtak, supervised by Government, for them. This hostel will, to begin with, be opened in a hired building and provision of Rs. 10,150 has been made for the purpose. As soon as practicable, the hostel will shift to a building of its own, the construction of which will start this year, and for which a provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been included in this Budget.

In pursuance of the policy of giving free primary education to backward classes of the population, a very much larger provision has been made during the current year than previously. As against Rs. 1.5 lakhs sanctioned for this purpose in the past, a provision of Rs. 5.5 lakhs is being made.

In addition to the above items, Government has endeavoured wherever possible to extend educational facilities. Eighteen basic primary school are being added, for which purpose Government has agreed to give the District Boards concerned a cent per cent grant; the District Board High School Banjar, is to be provincialised, school buildings are to be constructed in the new townships at Rohtak and Jullundur, and made over to the Local Bodies in whose jurisdiction the school lie; two Government Girls Middle Schools are being opened, one at Kaithal and the other at Garli, in the

Kangra District; two of the existing Government Middle Schools for Girls at Abohar and Sonepat are being raised to the High Standard and English classes are to be added to the Government Middle School at Rohana.

The enforcement of compulsory primary education in the Punjab is still regulated by the Compulsory Primary Education Act of 1919. It leaves the adoption of compulsory education to the discretion of local bodies. The procedure laid down is that the local body decides on it by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present, and then obtains approval of Government. For meeting the expenditure on compulsory education the local authority may apply to the State Government for the imposition of a local rate. The Act of 1940 extended compulsory education to girls of school-going-age, but Government did not take any action under this measure. After the Partition the Punjab Government took up the question of amending the Punjab Primary Education Act of 1940. An amended bill was published in March, 1950, but was not taken up by the Legislature. The Government is now actively considering the lines along which compulsory education may be enforced in a wider area.

These are no small items for a Government which has taken over responsibility so recently. It is our policy to endeavour to improve the condition of teachers, as a necessary precondition to extensive and sound education; to nationalise text-books as efficiently and as quickly as possible, and to make these available at reasonable prices; and to spread education by establishing new institutions, or develop those already in existence, as fast as our resources will permit.

13. One of the first problems which our Ministry has had to face was the deteriorating condition following scarcity, particularly in the Hissar District. **Relief Measures for Scarcity Areas.** My colleagues and I have endeavoured to treat this question on a top-priority basis, and in spite of many preoccupations at the initial stage, we have been able to study conditions at the spot on more than one occasion. I wish to assure the House that as long as unfortunate people and cattle of this area need help, this will be forthcoming. I wish also to take this occasion of making a short statement on what has been done already.

(Minister for Finance)

First, in regard to the provision of work for those unable to earn adequately, Government has sanctioned the digging of ponds, for which purpose a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs has been advanced. Work on the construction of roads already planned has been expedited. The main scheme relates to the Bhiwani-Loharu road for which a sum of Rs. one lakh was provided in 1951-52 and Rs. 2 lakhs in 1952-53. Work has also been undertaken in connection with the irrigation projects to be constructed in the scarcity areas for the Bhakra canals. An experiment of getting this work done by village co-operatives has been introduced. In order to assist the aged, infirm, and purdah women, who are unable to work on roads, ponds and canals, 20 cotton spinning and weaving centres have been established, for which a sum of approximately Rs. 5 lakhs has been sanctioned.

The next problem that has been simultaneously tackled is that of food. Our Food Organisation has been able to respond quickly and effectively to any real need from areas where supplies were inadequate. From a total number of 73 rural depots, at one time the figure went up to 171. An effort has also been made to distribute the cheaper grains, such as milo and barley, so as to keep food within the purchasing capacity of the people.

A third line of activity is in regard to the preservation of cattle. With the assistance of the Central Government, imports of fodder have been organised ever since the scarcity conditions began to appear. Fodder-concession-freight-rates have been introduced, by which Government pays one-third of the freight on imports of fodder. It is difficult to estimate the amount of money which will be spent on this account till the railway submits its bills. A lumpsum provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made for the present. Special arrangements were made for the import of fodder, at a cost of approximately Rs. 3 lakhs, to feed the animals of the Cattle Farm at Hissar. Subsidies have been sanctioned to maintain 400 stud bulls owned by the District Board of Hissar. A total expenditure of Rs. 40,000 on this account is expected. The greatest single measure of relief for cattle has taken the form of opening 8 concentration camps, capable of catering for 5,000 head of stray cattle. The cost of these camps is estimated at Rs. 4.44 lakhs.

Government has taken care that adequate provision is made for taccavi. Fodder taccavi to the extent of Rs. 13 lakhs will have been distributed in the Hissar District during the period April to June, 1952. A provision for seed and bullock taccavi has also been made at Rs. 10 and 20 lakhs respectively.

As a result of these several operations, the total expenditure on account of the scarcity conditions as provided in the Budget, 1951-52, was Rs. 8 lakhs, and it is estimated that Rs. 62 lakhs will be spent during 1952-53. Of this amount of Rs. 62 lakhs, Rs. 17,14,000 will come from the Revenue Account, and Rs. 45,00,000 take the form of loans and advances for various kinds of taccavi. These figures exclude expenditure on regular schemes relating to roads and canals, work on which has been undertaken earlier than planned.

It will be realised that this is a considerable drain on the financial resources of this State. Government very much looks forward to adequate rain during the coming monsoon to relieve the people from further suffering.

I have taken the opportunity of visiting Hissar again early this week, and been able to fill up certain gaps and defects in the administration of relief on the spot. In particular, we have decided to increase the provision for bullock taccavi by Rs. 5 lakhs; to open five additional Spinning Centres, and at the Cattle Concentration Camps, to provide concentrates for those animals who in the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon in charge are in a weak condition.

14 The total provision made in the Budget, 1951-52, on expenditure for Relief and Rehabilitation, from the Revenue Account, was Rs. 1,62 lakhs of which 1,33 lakhs was reimbursable by the Government of India and Rs. 29 lakhs was to be met by the State Government. The total provision made in the Budget now presented to the Legislature is Rs. 1,68 lakhs of which Rs. 1,45 lakhs is estimated as recoverable from the Central Government and Rs. 23 lakhs has to be borne by the State Government. In addition to this, provision in the Capital and Loan Accounts

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amounts to a total of Rs. 2,26 lakhs for 1952-53 as against Rs. 1,44 lakhs for 1951-52.

Some of the items on which expenditure is to be incurred are still the subject of negotiation with the Central Government and actual expenditure will be restricted to the amounts approved by the two Governments.

The various forms of Relief and Rehabilitation activity are well known, and I need only mention particular subjects where a change is contemplated.

The final stage of work on land allotment is now near completion, and we hope very soon to achieve a position where no further adjustments are necessary, thus assuring allottees of the secure possession of their land.

The question of permanently transferring mud-huts to their occupants is under consideration between the Centre and the State. I am authorised by the Minister for Rehabilitation at the Centre to say that it is proposed that dwellers of these mud-huts, who possessed urban immovable property in Pakistan, and have verified claims in respect of this property under the Claims Compensation Act, may be allowed to adjust the cost of these mud-huts against these claims. In the case of other dwellers, the conditions on which property rights in these huts will be transferred to them, and the manner in which they will be asked to pay, are under active consideration.

It has also been decided to provide additional amenities in the mud-hut colonies in the way of schools, sanitary conveniences improvement of drainage and the like. Schemes for this purpose have been approved by the Centre.

The question of compensation for owners of urban evacuee property in Pakistan is being actively pursued by the Central Government, and I am glad to be able to inform the House that the Centre consider that compensation will start being paid by early 1953.

It has been decided, in consultation with the Central Government, to extend the leases of persons holding evacuee industrial concerns, by another year, subject to the condition that if any concern is to be taken up in connection with the payment of compensation, the lease may be terminated earlier.

In the beginning of April, 1952, there were 2,081 displaced persons under canvas in the Punjab. I am glad to be able to inform the House that as a result of very special efforts, we are confident that by the end of the current month, there will be no displaced persons in this State living under canvas, thus we hope, finally ending the long ordeal which such persons have suffered in the way of continuous living under extremely arduous circumstances.

We have also taken up the problem of Rehabilitating our University which has to be established practically from scratch. Three hundred and sixteen acres of land, suitably situated, have been reserved for it at Chandigarh; the University has worked out a scheme for establishing itself there; and Government propose to set up a Committee to examine and work out a practical plan as speedily as possible.

It is the policy of this Government to consolidate relief and rehabilitation that has taken place so far as quickly as possible, and go on with further work wherever necessary.

I must express the gratitude of this State at the continued interest, and financial assistance, of the Centre in these operations. It is true that there are items on which we would like to see the Centre somewhat more generous than at present. These are under consideration and we are hopeful of an adequate, if not generous, response.

15. In addition to the normal provision made by Government by way of grants to Panchayats, on the basis of income collected by them, this Budget makes a further provision of Rs. 8 lakhs for the year 1952-53. Some time ago, a special drive was launched amongst Panchayats, for making collections for sanitary and other works. The response was excellent and a sum of

Additional Provision for Panchayats.

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Rs. 50 lakhs (round) was collected. My Government has decided that it will also make a handsome contribution by way of response to the collection so made. It is proposed that 75 per cent of the collection of each Panchayat concerned against the total amount of Rs. 50 lakhs (round) should be contributed by Government as an additional grant. For the current year Rs. 8 lakhs have been provided for this purpose. The balance of Rs. 29½ lakhs (round) will be provided in 4 equal annual instalments in subsequent years. This Government intends to draw out with the Panchayats, and with the assistance of the Departments concerned, a suitable programme of work for each Panchayat, and to render them all assistance in the way of advice or help that they may require in carrying this programme out.

While this is a first concrete step in endeavouring to make Panchayat Rule somewhat of a reality, the Government is also thinking out schemes by which these organisations could be strengthened and made more effective in a permanent way.

16. The Government of India, in co-operation with the Government of the United States of America, **The Aim of Com-** have decided on what may well prove one of the **munity Projects.** most vital experiments in rural development.

The aim of the scheme of Community Projects, is to achieve by concentration of effort, in specified areas, the highest material and human development for the people, with special reference to agricultural production. Each Project is to consist of a group of about 300 villages where an all-out effort will be made, for a period of three years, for development in every sphere particularly social, educational, agricultural, and medical.

Finances will be a joint responsibility shared initially between the Centre, the United States of America and the State Government. A part of the provision will be made in the form of loans recoverable from the beneficiaries of the scheme. In this way, financial responsibility will also fall on the people of the area concerned.

One of the main objects of the scheme is, by education and practical achievement, to wake the people up to an experience of what can be done by co-operative effort and scientific knowledge. It is hoped that after the three-year period, further development in the area concerned will largely be taken up by the people themselves, Government only providing such supervisory and over-all assistance as they may require.

17. The Centre has approved four Community Projects for the Punjab, at and around Batala, Nawanshahr, **Community Projects-** Jagadhri and Sonapat, and it has also been in-
Finance, 1952-53. formally agreed that 100 villages round Nilo-
kheri and 200 near Faridabad will be developed in addition. The total expenditure for four schemes for a period of three years, at the rate of Rs. 65 lakhs per scheme, is Rs. 2,60 lakhs. This will take partly the form of loans from the Centre and partly of shared expenditure between the State and the Centre in the form of grants. The total expenditure for the year 1952-53 provided in the Budget is Rs. 1,30.26 lakhs. Of this Rs. 85 lakhs will be the responsibility of the State, though Rs. 70 lakhs out of it will be financed from loans from the Centre, which, it is hoped, will eventually be recovered from the beneficiaries under the scheme. The balance of Rs. 15 lakhs will represent outright expenditure from the Revenue Account of the State.

Full details in regard to each project have still to be worked out and it is possible that the expenditure on various items may have to be adjusted and modified in the background of practical necessity.

This Government greatly welcomes the scheme for Community Projects, and is determined to put in every effort to make this scheme a success.

18. It is necessary for me to say a few words in regard to Police expenditure. In 1949-50, we spent
Large Police Expen- Rs. 2,76.74 lakhs on the Police; in 1950-51
diture. Rs. 2,64.97 lakhs; in 1951-52 Rs. 2,71.47 lakhs,
and the proposed figure for 1952-53 is
Rs. 2,73.64 lakhs. For a State the revenues of which vary bet-

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ween Rs. 16 and Rs. 17 crores, this is a very large expenditure on Police. I have got figures for Part A States examined for the year 1951-52 and find that the percentage of this State's expenditure on Police to its total revenues, was the largest in India. In regard to per capita expenditure for the same year, we were the third largest, the first two being Bombay and West Bengal, which have large urban concentrations of population. I am quite convinced that the main reason for this comparatively high total expenditure on the Police in our case has been our proximity to the border. We have had to employ Police in several directions because of this. My Government is very strongly of the view that where we incur expenditure for reasons which are All-India in origin, it is only fair that a portion of this expenditure should be borne by the Central Government, for we are really performing functions which arise from international rather than internal causes. I regret that in spite of our best endeavours, this position has not so far been accepted by the Centre. We propose to continue efforts to get a reimbursement for expenditure of this kind and hope that the Central Government will realise the justice of our demand.

19. I am glad to be able to announce that this Government **Industrial Finance** has decided to establish an Industrial Finance **Corporati n and** Corporation. The need for this particularly in **other Industrial** circumstances where it is necessary to rehabili- **Schemes.** tate our industries and to prepare in advance for the utilisation of power made available from Bhakra-Nangal, is obvious. It is proposed to set up a State Industrial Finance Corporation with an authorised capital of Rs 2 crores. The paid-up capital will be one crore and will be called up as required. For the year 1952-53 it is estimated that this state's share of this capital likely to be called up will be Rs. 7.5 Lakhs for which budget prwvison has been made. Negotiations are going ahead with the Government of India and the Reserve Bank to settle final details for establishing this Corporation. The other share-holders will be the Reserve Bank, Scheduled Banks, Insurance Companies, etc., and a certain portion of the capital will be reserved for private parties who wish to contribute. Dividends will be guaranteed by the State Government. For the present, the office of the Corpora-

ion will be located at Jullundur, but this will be shifted to Chandigarh, when possible.

Special attention is being paid to meet the difficulties of the Industrial Areas set up at Bahadurgarh, Sonapat, Panipat, Jagadhri, Ludhiana, and Jullundur. So far 1,709 plots have been planned, of which 1,014 have been sold, and the construction of 107 factories has actually commenced. The difficulties industrialists have met with relate to finance, controlled raw-materials, and electricity. In regard to the first we expect a progressive improvement as our Finance Corporation starts working. For controlled raw-material particularly steel, a high-level approach is being made to the Centre. If this is successful, it will give a great fillip to the very promising small-engineering industry. In regard to electricity the difficulties are those resulting from taking new connections to somewhat scattered areas. I am glad to say that these are substantially solved, except at Ludhiana and Jullundur, where we have not yet got the transformers required to make an adequate supply and have so far had to be content with supplies at night when the peak demand is at an ebb. Transformers are expected shortly.

This Government is also examining the possibility of further development of cottage and small-scale industries. A promising approach seems to be to import a restricted number of Japanese experts to train our people in a line in which Japanese organisation and skill are almost proverbial. No definite plans have yet been evolved but the subject is under active consideration.

Action is also being taken to strengthen the Marketing Organisation for textiles, and plans are being formulated to evolve better and more attractive designs. I am insising on co-ordination between the departments of industries and co-operation to organise industrial development on co-operative lines.

Our resources of technical persounel will improve with the setting up of an Engineering College of our own, work on which is going ahead at Chandigarh. A provision of Rs. 25 lakhs, as againsts an expendi-

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ture of Rs. 8 lakhs last year has been made in the Budget. The college is estimated to cost Rs. 40 lakhs in all. We are fairly confident that the College will be opened at Chandigarh by October 1953, thus finally ending the *ad hoc* arrangements made for our students at Roorkee. We are grateful to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for their hospitality to us during this interim period.

20. The Government is determined to nationalise transport progressively. At present the Transport Department is operating 195 buses from three centres at Jullundur, Amritsar and Ambala. Provision has been made in the Budget to take over a few new routes, and utilise unallotted permits on some routes already in operation. Care has been taken not to violate in any way the understandings given to private operators by the previous Government. As and when the situation can be adjusted further extensions in nationalisation will take place.

Special emphasis is being laid on the provision of additional facilities to passengers. I understand that of 53 new vehicles to be put on the road, 19 will be of a superior diesel type with aluminium bodies. It is also proposed to set up twenty bus-queues at important bus-stands for the convenience of waiting passengers. The seating lay-out of buses is being modified to improve on the present standard of comfort and convenience. In these and other directions it is proposed gradually to build up a really high standard of efficiency and comfort.

21. Over Rs. 2,00 lakhs have been spent on the Capital Project at Chandigarh up to the end of 1951-52 and a gross provision of Rs. 3,11 lakhs has been made in this Budget. It is not necessary for me to elaborate on this scheme, as Members are already aware of the need for setting up a Capital in the plains as soon as possible. I am, however, in a position to say that this Project is very definitely

well on the rails, and it is only a matter of time to get it completed. We were somewhat doubtful regarding the public reaction to the sale of plots. I am glad to report that the response has been excellent, and the demand for the plots so far put on the market far exceeds the supply. Good and categorical progress can also be reported in the matter of water supply. It has been found that this is quite adequate for our needs. Buildings are now going up as rapidly as possible. Negotiations are under way with the Railway for the construction of a connecting line between Chandigarh and Kurali from where getting on to the main Amritsar-Delhi line will be shorter and quicker. While in a Project of this magnitude, at the present stage of progress, it would be rash to make prophecies regarding the date by which the Government will move down. I am in a position to state that both plans and the execution of work are very well in hand, and the date by which we will be able to establish ourselves there will be sooner rather than later. I would like to add a word of appreciation for the spirit and zeal with which the team of foreign architects, whom we have engaged, are working for us. The Capital Project is fortunate to have obtained their services.

22. The Bhakra-Nangal Project is the single largest and most important development scheme of the Punjab Government. It is financed entirely from loans from the Central Government.

When completed the irrigation boundary for the scheme will cover roughly 66 lakh acres and the irrigation expected annually will be of the order of 36 lakh acres. It is also expected to generate 400,000 K. W. of firm power at 100 percent load factor and 150,000 K. W. of secondary power.

There have been great difficulties in the execution of this Project the more important of which could be classified under the three heads of (i) Finance, (ii) Machinery and (iii) Technical Personnel. In regard to the first the position has eased considerably, and the Central Government are able, by and large, to make available the sums of money required from time to time. With regard to

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to machinery and foreign personnel, we are still nooyeptectllm out of the wood. The situation has been made more difficult by strained international relationships which have tended to affect both the price and the availability of foreign material and men. I am glad to be able to report that this Government has now secured the services of Mr. M. H. Slocum, who is probably the best, and certainly the most experienced constructor of dams in the world. We have formed a favourable preliminary impression regarding his desire and sincerity to do the very best for us. He is, at the moment, engaged in finding the necessary men and material required in the immediate future. With his arrival, we are confident that it will be possible to indicate a firm programme of work by the time the Budget is presented next year.

The Budget provision made for the Bhakra-Nangal Project for 1952-53 amounts to Rs. 22.53 lakhs. The actual amount will depend on what the Central Government is able to spare for the purpose. We have, however, been assured that the programme of work will not be allowed to suffer for want of funds.

23. The Food Procurement and Distribution Scheme is run on a "no profit no loss" basis. Though expenditure on procurement runs into crores, the net amount asked for in 1952-53 is Rs. 35 lakhs. This expenditure is apparent rather than real, and represents merely the carry-over to be adjusted in accounts of subsequent years. This State has struck a happy balance between a fair price for the producer, and the needs of the consumer. Wheat prices have been stabilised at a reasonable level and it has been possible to distribute grain throughout the past year at a steady price. This was achieved in spite of the fact that last year's crop was comparatively poor and 40,000 tons of wheat had to be imported. This State, unlike several others in India, has, therefore, not had to face difficulties resulting from the withdrawal of food subsidies.

**Stability in Food
Prices.**

For the current year, in view of our good wheat crop, we have at the instance of the Food Minister of the Government of India undertaken a firm commitment for supplying 60,000 tons of wheat to Delhi, and thereby helping that administration to lower its prices. We are hopeful to achieve this export without detriment to our consumer.

In view of the rapid progress made in procurement a special Vote-on-Account for purchase of grain in advance of passing the Budget is also requested.

Another activity in connection with our food procurement and distribution system to which I would like to refer is the construction of storage bins. Accommodation for 30,000 tons of grain has already been almost completed, and the Budget includes a demand for Rs. 21 lakhs for further construction. All this money comes out of the Food Bonus, previously earned by this State, so that there is no strain on the Revenue Account. A good standard of storage accommodation is a prerequisite to prevent waste in the deterioration of food and its consumption by insect pests and other animals.

24. The Planning Commission, in detailed consultation with this Government, has approved a **The Five Year Plan.** Plan for Rs. 22,75 lakhs for the Five-Year period 1951-52 to 1955-56. It is the policy of this Government to implement this Plan to the fullest extent possible. With regard to the year 1951-52 the provision in the Plan was Rs. 5,45 lakhs; actual expenditure for the year was, however, Rs. 2,91 lakhs. There was a short-fall of Rs. 2,54 lakhs. Better progress is expected during 1952-53. The provision for the Plan this year is Rs. 5,07 lakhs, against which Rs. 5,84 lakhs is included in the Budget, thus representing an additional amount of Rs. 77 lakhs.

Within this over-all position, it is, however, necessary to state that it has not been possible to include provision for each

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and every scheme included in the Plan, whereas it has been necessary to include increased provision for some of the schemes. This kind of adjustment, as between expenditure from one year to another is inevitable in a plan running over five years and covering several schemes. It, nevertheless, remains true that in one direction particularly there is a considerable short-fall from the Plan figures. This is in regard to Grow-More-Food Schemes.

25. A curtailment in the activity of Government in respect of Grow-More-Food Schemes on the grant-in-aid side has been necessary. These schemes are of two kinds. Those

which are financially unproductive were theoretically financed by 50 per cent being paid by the State and 50 per cent by the Centre. In fact, however, the finances were found from the Food Bonus earned by this State on the procurement and export of foodgrains. The result of this was that there was no strain on the Revenue Account. Those schemes which were financially productive were met from loan money advanced by the Centre. The Food Bonus Schemes has now been discontinued, with the result that in future there will be no earnings to the State Government from this source. For the year 1952-53, therefore, it has been necessary to restrict grant-in-aid schemes to the balances available in the Food Bonus. The result is that the provision for such schemes for 1952-53 has been reduced to Rs. 27.80 lakhs as against Rs. 40 lakhs (round) for each of the two previous years.

The position in regard to loan schemes, however, continues as before, and, in fact proposed activity has been extended for 1952-53 where a provision of Rs. 1,97.40 lakhs has been made as against a provision of Rs. 1,66.31 lakhs in 1951-52, and Rs. 1,50.92 lakhs in 1950-51.

The position, therefore, is that in future it will not be possible to continue the existing level of activity on grant-in-aid schemes without putting an extra strain on the Revenue Account of the State. Whether such an adjustment is possible, it will be examined carefully in presenting next year's Budget.

26. I have now made a survey of the more important items of expenditure included in the Budget placed before you, in order to indicate the broad lines of Government policy for the future development of this State. Before closing this analysis I would like to mention some special items, which though in some cases, small are of particular interest.

Provision has been made of Rs. 50,000 by way of initial expenditure in establishing a Dental College. This State has been fortunate in obtaining some of the equipment for this College at a nominal cost from Disposals.

It is hoped to make substantial progress in establishing a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Tanda. A provision of Rs. 4,44,000 is included for the cost of buildings, and Rs. 2,23,000 (round) for the cost of staff, equipment, etc. Of the former sum, Rs. 2,00,000 will take the form of a contribution by R. B. Jodha Mal and I should like to express my appreciation of his generosity.

A provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made in the Budget by way of Government's contribution to the National Workers Relief Fund established last year. The amount contributed for 1951-52 was Rs. 30,000. This fund is to be administered for the purpose of providing relief to political sufferers and their families who are in indigent circumstances,

I am sure Members will fully appreciate a provision of Rs. 25,000 included in the Budget for the purchase of some houses surrounding Jallianwala Bagh, which bear the bullet marks of the shooting in that incident. The Committee incharge is endeavouring to buy these houses with the assistance of their own resources, a contribution from the Centre and from this State. We have been able to provide the sum asked for.

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Rs. 4,72,700 from the Centre and Rs. 1-7 lakhs from the State are provided for developing the backward areas of Spiti and Lahaul.

A scheme for improving the educational and other amenities of Plantation Labour is included in this Budget. This is jointly financed by the Centre, the State and the Kangra Valley Tea Planters Association, who are contributing respectively Rs. 5,000, Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 2,500. A provision of Rs. 30,000 by this Government has also been made to set up six Labour Welfare Centres in Industrial Areas for amenities such as reading-rooms, libraries, indoor games, etc., for labourers, and sewing and charkha classes for their families. A scheme of considerable long term promise, for which this Budget provides, relates to Industrial Housing. This is jointly financed by the Centre and the State in the ratio of 2 to 1, the former's share taking the form of a loan, which will be interest-free. For this purpose Rs. 2,25 lakhs have been provided as our share, and Rs. 4,50 lakhs as that of the Centre for the current financial year. Detailed arrangements for the use of such housing, at reasonable hire, by labour are being worked out in consultation with employers.

27. I have already mentioned the improvement in prospects of certain classes of teachers, resulting from Assistance for an amalgamation of grades, and the proposal Lower-Paid Em- for a higher starting salary for 1st class M.A. ployees. and M Sc. lecturers in the College grade. I now have pleasure in being able to announce this Government's decision for the payment of increased dearness allowances to our employees earning up to Rs. 100 per mensem. Remuneration will be made at the rate of Rs. 5 per mensem to all those whose basic pay is at or below Rs. 100 per mensem. It is estimated that this will involve an increased expenditure of just under Rs. 44 lakhs per annum, including the provision to be made for those employees of Local Bodies for whom Government had already accepted a whole or partial commitment. This increased dearness allowance will be paid in the current financial year with effect from 1st August, 1952, involving an expenditure of Rs. 26 lakhs

for the 7 months of the year which remain. Of this Rs. 26 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 19 lakhs has already been included in the Budget figures before you, and has been shown under each major head concerned on a rough basis described as "Finance Department's Reserve". I bring this to the pointed notice of hon. Members as they may otherwise be puzzled by this item. The balance of Rs. 7 lakhs required to make the total extra provision of Rs. 26 lakhs was decided on after Budget documents had been printed, and is not included in the Budget. This additional amount will be provided through supplementaries. This means, however, that our net deficit of Rs. 43 lakhs as given in the Budget will now be increased to Rs. 50 lakhs.

This Government has also considered most carefully the question of revision of grades of pay of Overseers. The present position is that two grades apply, both of which start at Rs. 90 and end at Rs. 275, but in the case of personnel recruited after 1931, the rate of increment is lower than in the case of those recruited before 1931. Government has now decided, and this will be enforced after the Budget is passed, to create a single grade for all Overseers in the higher of the two now prevailing. It has also been decided that instead of finishing at Rs. 275 this grade should now carry on to Rs. 300. As a result of this decision the new grade will be Rs 90—7—195—5—200/7—235/8—291—9—300. The immediate financial repercussions of this change will be nominal and no special provision has been made in the Budget for it. The long-term repercussions will be cumulative in effect, and are estimated as involving Government in additional expenditure of Rs. 2,10,000 per annum, after a period of 15 to 20 years.

Government wish to accept as policy a fair wage, in the background of present prices for both its own lower-paid employees and those privately employed. As an immediate step in this direction, these additional dearness allowances and adjustments in pay are being made. It may be contended that compared with the increase in dearness allowance permitted by the Central Government, the provision now introduced is small. We have given extremely careful thought to this problem. The number of employees in the lower-income groups is so large that the expendi-

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ture involved on going up any higher than this is quite beyond our resources. We are confident that this class of employees will bear with us in our appreciation of their need, and also respond, as indeed we all must, to the need of this State during the next few years when we will put a lot of money into development without attaining any return at the initial stages. We cannot eat our cake before it is made.

28. I have now completed my review of expenditure. This

Government is quite confident that considering both the quantity and nature of the **Tax on Passengers and Goods carried by Motor Vehicles.** provision made in the Budget for 1952-53, a deficit of Rs. 50 lakhs in the Revenue

Account is fully justified. This sum is indeed almost wholly covered by just three items in which we have broken new ground. These are additional provision for Panchayats (Rs. 8 lakhs); increased dearness allowances for lower-paid employees (Rs. 26 lakhs) and the Revenue account Share for Community Projects (Rs. 15 lakhs), making a total of Rs. 49 lakhs. In addition, we have had to face unforeseen and abnormal expenditure in providing for the scarcity conditions in the Hissar District.

Nevertheless, this Government is anxious not to put any undue strain on the finances of this State and people for the future years. We have, therefore, considered very carefully how far it is possible to cover the deficit of Rs. 50 lakhs. It has indeed been a problem to do so, as we recognise that the taxation capacity of our people, many of whom are displaced, is now limited.

In this background, I propose increased revenues from one single tax only. This is a tax of one pie per anna value of the fare on passengers and goods carried by motor vehicles. For administrative convenience, the tax will be assessed subject to a minimum of 3 pies (one pice) for any particular ticket. I have most carefully considered the possible repercussions of this tax on transport and on the people. I have come to the conclusion that it represents a comparatively slight imposition and creates a source of revenue which is both flexible and expanding. The present maximum fare

which an operator is permitted to charge a passenger, except in some special hill areas, is 7 pies per mile. I have examined actual rates and find that in several areas, the actual charge is only 6 pies per mile. With the tax now proposed, an additional charge of approximately half a pie per mile will be involved so that we will still in many areas be well within the 7 pies per mile permitted. I am also confident that this tax will not adversely affect the balance in favour of rail transport as a result of competition between the railway and motor vehicles.

It is estimated that the yield from such a tax for a full year would be Rs. 30 lakhs. During the current financial year, the tax will be imposed for a period of 8 months starting from August 1, 1952, resulting in a gross yield of Rs. 20 lakhs. After deducting Rs. 2 lakhs on establishment and administration, the net yield expected for the current financial year is Rs. 18 lakhs.

This Government will be introducing legislation for your consideration for the enforcement of the proposed tax during the current session.

29. My colleagues and I have considered most carefully the question of special pays, which are attached to particular posts and received in addition to the regular pay of the officers. We are quite convinced that in a democratic organisation such special pays are wrong in principle. Assuming that a fair wage is paid to our employees, it is not the attraction of small additional remuneration which will make the difference between good and bad work. It is basically a sense of self-respect and vocation that will differentiate a good from a bad officer. It is significant that in human operations when any hazardous and dangerous venture is undertaken, as in the case of active warfare where the presence of death is imminent, an appeal is never made to the belly but rather to the heart. At such a crisis volunteers are asked for, and not mercenaries. We are convinced that this is sound in principle, and that with independence an appeal to special pays for special work is an anachronism. We are also of the view that it is literally impossible to make a fair assessment

-(Minister for Finance)

in regard to posts to which special pays should be attached and those which do not merit these. For example, it seems unfair that a Deputy Commissioner, the character of whose work often proves a constant strain on time, nerves and patience, should not receive a special pay, whereas a colleague of his working as a Secretary should do so. In the latter case, however hard and intelligent the work that may be required, the general conditions in which this work is performed are, without doubt, of comparative comfort and facility. We have been led to the conclusion that in these circumstances, taking our services as a whole, special pays far from being an incentive to greater efficiency and contentment, frequently are the cause of resentment and jealousy between colleagues. Both from the point of view of principle and practice, therefore, we are convinced that special pays are a sign of disease and jealousy, rather than of health and vigour, in our administration. This Government has, therefore, accepted as policy, subject to the modifications which I will indicate, that special pays should be abolished.

* In applying this policy we have decided that we should exempt personnel who are in receipt of special pays, and whose basic pay is less than Rs. 500 per mensem. The reasons for this exemption are that a reduction in the remuneration of these lower-paid employees, may under present conditions, cause a great deal of hardship in individual cases; another reason is that in regard to special pays for this class of employees, these are often given as a substitute for a revised higher grade of pay. as for example, in the case of a Constable who on being asked to undertake clerical duties is given a small additional allowance. In regard to employees earning above Rs. 500 per mensem as basic pay, it has been decided, in view of present high prices, that it would be hard on those of them who are in receipt of such remuneration to have to adapt themselves suddenly to a total loss of it. We have, therefore, decided that the abolition of such pays should be spread over a period of three years. Those officers in this class who are in receipt of special pays on the 14th June, 1952, will, with effect from the 1st August, 1952, lose one-third of their special pay, calculated

to the nearest whole rupee; this will be followed by reduction by another one-third on 1st August, 1953, and a total stoppage of the special pay on the 1st August, 1954. In the case of personnel in future appointed by transfer or otherwise to posts which carry special pays, the special pay will not be permitted right from the start. In the case of personnel transferred from one post carrying a special pay to another with such a pay, the same rule of a reduction of one-third per annum will apply.

There is another class of exemption which I must mention. In the case of officers of the ex-Secretary-of-State-Services, special pays attached to particular posts are guaranteed under the provisions of the Constitution. We must abide by this guarantee. As, however, these are amongst the highest-paid employees of Government, we recognise that the position will be anomalous. It is proposed, therefore, to issue a personal appeal to these officers, who are limited in number, to fall into line with Government policy on a voluntary basis. We are hopeful of a satisfactory response.

It is estimated that the total cost per annum involved for special pays of officers earning above Rs. 500 per mensem is Rs. 2 lakhs. As the rate of one-third saved per year, the reduction in expenditure will be about Rs. 66,000; for the 7 months of this financial year we expect a saving of approximately Rs. 30,000. In this matter, however, as already indicated the important issue is not the amount of money saved but the principle involved.

30. This Government is determined to abolish all the trappings and rags of privilege and ostentation which we have inherited from the foreign regime, and which are incompatible with democratic practice. On the principle, that the abolition of privilege, like the exercise of charity, should begin at home, we have decided to abolish the elaborate Police Guard establishment attached to each Minister. Following from this we also propose to abolish this Guard for such officers of Government, like Deputy Commissioners, to whom it is attached.

**Savings — Police
Guards.**

(Minister for Finance)

In place of it we propose to provide for two or possibly three plain-clothes-gunmen, for purposes of protection. The reduction in expenditure expected from this move will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 64,000 per annum; which for the seven months of this financial year, will mean an amount of Rs. 37,000. Here again, however, it is the principle which is more important than the sum of money involved.

31. I am now in a position to indicate the final deficit in the Revenue Account. This is Rs. 43 lakhs in the Budget figures, to which an additional Rs. 7 lakhs has to be added on account of provision not made for the scale of additional dearness allowances proposed, making a gross total of Rs. 50 lakhs. The net yield expected from the tax on passengers and goods carried by motor vehicles is Rs. 18 lakhs and we may assume a total saving of nearly Rs. 1 lakh from the economies mentioned by me in connection with special pays and Police Guard establishment. The result will be a reduction of the deficit of Rs. 50 lakhs by Rs. 19 lakhs, leaving a net deficit of Rs. 31 lakhs. I propose to leave this deficit uncovered.

32. It would be presumptuous of me, so soon after taking over as Finance Minister, to attempt any long-term assessment of the financial position of this State. It is, nevertheless, important that I should at least give some broad indications of how in my opinion this land of ours lies.

Since Partition, the main factors in the economic situation of this State, and its citizens, have been adverse. First there was the loss of assets of very considerable proportions by both people and State following the cruel operation of Partition; second, there was the loss to some of our most important areas of affluent markets for trade and industry, and the resulting need of a quick-term adjustment to a new situation; third, more than in other parts of the country, our people had to face the difficulties of an extremely tight money market, accentuated in the Punjab

by its proximity to the border, and continual apprehension of trouble with our neighbours; fourth, there was the need, to begin with, insistent to the point of despair, for displaced persons to rehabilitate themselves, and for the help of Government to this end. In these circumstances, both the State and citizens have had to face a dual problem resulting from lack of finances and the need of these to meet immediate necessity, and to build up future security. This State has come out of this test in some respects almost better than the most optimistic prophet could have foreseen. Our proportionate revenues from the Joint Punjab for this part of it were in the neighbourhood of Rs. 8 crores, as against which we are able this year to work on the basis of over Rs. 17 crores. This is an enormous achievement, and financially is a conclusive tribute to the resilience and determination of our people. Nevertheless, this position has been achieved, at the cost of taxation of considerable severity. I am convinced that we have now got to a position where both in urban and rural areas any substantial increase in taxation is just not practical. Indeed large numbers of our population who are displaced still continue to require help in the way of money from Government to equip themselves with the wherewithal of subsistence. This position has in the immediate past been aggravated to some extent by the slump. Though I do not consider its effects permanently disabling, it has undoubtedly considerably reduced the turnover of business in almost every sphere. In these circumstances, we will be fortunate if we are substantially able to stabilise our present Revenue Receipts. In one direction at least we are already certain of a loss. This is in regard to reduced income from opium, as a result of the Government of India's policy to reduce its consumption by 10 per cent per annum, so that in ten years there is a complete prohibition on its oral consumption. This means a drop of Rs. ten to twelve lakhs per annum for this State, which over a ten-year period will amount to over a crore. It is in this background that our financial policies must be framed.

At this stage I wish to say a few words in regard to the moral environment in which we must work, and which, besides being an end in itself, ultimately influences the quality and extent of material

(Minister for Finance)

effort. This Government will do its utmost to establish justice and purity in the Administration. Practical steps to make this a reality are being examined. In order to end nepotism and favouritism in the recruitment of personnel, we are considering ways and means of making the Public Service Commission responsible for all selections, even to lower-paid posts, now exempt from their jurisdiction. We will endeavour also to take speedy and effective action against individual officers at the slightest corruption, or abuse, on their part. This, however, will always be a somewhat one-sided action, unless we are assured of public co-operation. In the last analysis, it is the public itself that must determine to show up, and help us in punishing, and eradicating this disease. I would most earnestly appeal for their assistance.

Turning now to this year's Budget, I am satisfied that within our limited resources, and fighting hard to keep our deficit at as low a figure as possible, we have not done badly. We have broken new ground in important fields of development, particularly in regard to improving the remuneration of teachers; in providing at least some relief to our low-paid employees; in additional provision for Panchayats to raise the living standards of the rural population; in progress towards the nationalisation of text-books and extending the scope and improving the quality of education; in making initial provision for the colonisation of areas to be irrigated by the Bhakra-Nangal Project; in setting up a Finance Corporation for helping industrial enterprise; and in providing our share of the expenditure for the experiment on Community Projects. In other realms we have at least held our own, making small improvements here and there for future development. In addition we have provided, literally without stint, for the essential needs of the scarcity areas.

Nevertheless, in the circumstances of this State, I will be the first to admit that there are gaps, and I know that hon. Members will readily think of both new items as well as items in the Budget, for which increased provision could be made. I know also that in regard to many of these items, there is real need, and a genuine, insistent demand on the part of our people. We have, however, felt

that it would be unjustified to put any further strain on our revenues.

On the Capital and Loan sides, there are factors in the situation which would tend to justify if not an alarming, at least a picture which requires earnest thought and careful attention. We have inherited a fair number of unproductive and risky schemes, particularly those arising from Capital Expenditure and Loans for Rehabilitation purposes. We have also had to take on, and will have to take on in the future, certain inescapable expenditure, connected with the re-establishing of assets lost by this Government in the Joint Punjab. I do not mean to suggest that such expenditure should be entirely avoided; indeed some of it is more important than productive expenditure. It is, however, my duty to point out the financial implications, about which, quite frankly, I am not at all happy. We will have to pay back larger instalments by way of returns of loans for the future, and I cannot foresee in the next few years an easy budgetary position. In fact the future appears to me to be progressively difficult. I have, however, one great hope, and that is that the peculiar problems of our State will be appreciated and that we will receive some measure of direct assistance from the Centre.

This Government also greatly welcomes the appointment of a Finance Commission, and is confident that the needs and special problems of our State, in regard to both Expenditure and Receipts will be appreciated by them. I feel that we cannot indefinitely deny to our people essential items of development which we are forced to ignore owing to our tight revenue position.

In any event, it is quite obvious that it will be necessary to husband our resources most carefully; to continually and at proper length explain our difficulties to, and win the confidence of, the public to whom we are responsible; and to constantly remind ourselves that if we wish to achieve a secure position financially, amongst the States of this country, we will have, before we arrive on the hill-top, to pass through the valley of austerity and difficulty. This is the price which this generation of our citizens must be willing to pay in order to achieve a really prosperous Punjab.

33. At the suggestion and request of my Finance Secretary,

I propose to depart from the usual custom

Acknowledgments. of mentioning and appreciating the services of individual officers by name. I would, however, like to acknowledge before the Legislature my appreciation of the work done by the officers and men of the Finance Department in preparing, at very short notice, and at very great speed, a second budget for the year 1952-53.

I also wish to record the appreciation of this Government to the Accountant-General and his Staff, who share with us the burden of watching the financial interests of this State.

And now, Sir, I request your leave to present the Budget, 1952-53. (*Loud Cheers*).

Jai Hind.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members, before we disperse, I would like you to please bear with me on the point that I made at the commencement of the proceedings, namely, that it tantamounts to a breach of privilege, for whatever the friends below were doing or shouting. I feel that disorderly conduct within the precincts of the Assembly building, while the House is in Session, is a gross contempt of the House. Not only that, it is definitely a gross breach of the privilege of this House when any person obstructs a Member or Members of the House coming to or going from the House or influences him or them to take certain action. In other words, any attempt to influence the Members in their conduct by threats is also a breach of privilege of the House, I am of the opinion that some suitable steps must be taken to prevent the recurrence of what happened this morning when the House was meeting and, therefore, with a view to getting definite information as well as the recommendations I propose to constitute a Committee comprising the following gentlemen. This may be called the Committee on Privileges :

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Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Deputy Speaker— *Chairman*
Ch. Lahri Singh.
Giani Rajinder Singh.
Shri Mool Chand Jain.
Shri Sri Chand.
Shri Som Datt Bahri.
Sardar Ajmer Singh.
Shri Jagdish Chandra.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa.

ent to
burden

Learned Advocate General will please help the Committee in respect of the legal aspects of the question.

udget,

I hope all the Members will realise, as I said, that the respect and dignity of the House must be maintained and that occurrence of such scenes cannot be allowed or tolerated.

MICROPHONES AND LOUD SPEAKERS.

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I wish to make one more announcement. On Monday we will fit up the House as far as possible with microphones and loud speakers. I really sympathise with the Finance Minister who had to exert hard while reading his speech and even then many of the hon. Members could not hear what he was saying. Anyhow the speech has been published and it will make no material difference. From Monday onwards we will have microphones and loud speakers so that hon. Members can easily hear the speeches made in the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday the 16th

June, 1952.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, DEBATES.

16th June, 1952.

Volume II-No. 2

official Report



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SIMLA

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Monday, 16th June, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4 at 2 P. M. of the Clock Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. Speaker : I would inform the House that the Chief Minister has not been able to attend the Assembly on account of his indisposition. He has, however, requested that the first three questions on today's list which relate to his departments may be postponed till he comes.

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of information, Sir, Cannot any other Minister give a reply to these questions ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes. Lest there be any misunderstanding I am stating before the House that these questions have been postponed at the specific request of the Chief Minister. As he is unable to attend the Session on account of his indisposition, he has sought the indulgence regarding the postponement of the questions till he is able to attend, and it has been granted.

DAMAGE TO MANGO CROP IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

* 76. **Shri Rala Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the whole mango crop in Hoshiarpur District has been damaged this year by the mango pest called 'taila' ; if so, the steps, if any, taken by the district agricultural staff to combat this pest ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(Ist part) Yes. Serious damage to mango crop has been done by 'Taila';

(Second Part:) District Agriculture Authorities had only two power dusters with them and they used these and were able to spray with D. D. T. only 9500 trees.

Bad weather in March also interfered with spraying.

The Government feels this loss very much.

[Minister for Development]

It wishes that well-to-do peasants should own such power dusters and may use these in times of such emergencies.

Shri Rala Ram: May I know if the Government is prepared to give compensation to the zamindars whose mango crops have been damaged?

Minister: The Government has not so far arrived at any decision.

Shri Rala Ram: May I know whether spraying was done in all the orchards or only in the orchards managed by the Government?

Minister: It has been done without any distinction whatsoever. If the hon. Member has any information to the contrary he may give specific instances and I shall make enquiries.

Sardar Chanan Singh: May I know in which villages the spraying was done?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should know such things. One cannot say unless they arise out of the question.

RECLAMATION OF LAND IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*77. **Shri Rala Ram:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the area of land reclaimed during the last two years in Hoshiarpur district?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon: The following area was reclaimed by the tractors of the Agriculture Department:—

Year.	Area in acres.
1950-51.	
(July-June).	1961.
1951-52.	
(July-April).	
1952.	1039.
Total.	3000 acres.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know how much expenditure was incurred in connection with the reclamation of land?

Minister: I would have given a reply if the hon. Member had included this question in the original one.

Sardar Achhar Singh: May I know how much expenditure was incurred in reclaiming the area of land in Hoshiarpur district which is affected by chos ?

Shri Rala Ram: Sir, you might have read in the news-papers that an area of 82 acres of land only was reclaimed in Hoshiarpur district. Is it a fact ?

Minister: I have already given the figures.

Shri Rala Ram: Some area of land was reclaimed by means of tractors and may I know the area of land damaged by chos which was reclaimed by other methods ?

Mr. Speaker: This question does not arise out of the main question.

Shri Ram Kishan: May I know how much area of land that has been reclaimed has been given to the landless cultivators ?

Mr. Speaker: This question does not arise. The question is how much land has been reclaimed. Now you cannot ask him all sorts of questions.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Certain questions can definitely be asked. It is for the hon. Minister to say that he requires notice or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not going to delegate my powers to the members (*Hear, hear*). It is up to me to decide whether a supplementary question is in order or not.

DEPUTATION SENT ABROAD FOR THE PURCHASE OF MACHINERY.

***27. Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Punjab Government sent any deputation abroad for the purchase of machinery for Bhakra and Nangal Project; if so, the names of those deputed;
- (b) whether any orders for the purchase of machinery were placed; if so, for what amount ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

DEPUTATION SENT ABROAD FOR THE SELECTION OF ARCHITECTS.

***28. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any deputation was sent abroad to select Architects for the Capital Project at Chandigarh; if so, the names of those deputed ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes, in November, 1950 a deputation consisting of the following members was sent abroad for the selection of architects for the Capital Project:—

1. Shri P. N. Thapar, I. C. S., Financial Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation and Chief Administrator, Capital Project.
2. Shri P. L. Verma, Chief Engineer, Capital Project.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know, Sir, what were the qualifications of these gentlemen who went overseas to select the architects for Chandigarh ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not follow as the hon. Member asked only the names of the persons comprising the deputation going abroad and not their qualifications.

PROPOSAL TO DIG A MINOR CANAL IN TEHSIL BATALA.

***29. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government has under consideration any proposal to dig a minor canal from Sathiali to Aulakh in Batala Tehsil; if so, how long it will take to complete the work ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes. The scheme is under investigation and is likely to be prepared by the end of September, 1952. Construction work will, however, be taken in hand during the current financial year as minor irrigation scheme, if persons benefited are willing to pay 62½ per cent of the estimated cost.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that the Government, previously, used to recover from the zamindars 62 per cent of the expenditure involved in digging a minor canal ?

Minister : We have made this demand for the first time as the subsidy which we used to get from the Government of India has now been withdrawn.

SUPPLY OF WHEAT TO DELHI STATE.

***51. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether Government received any request or proposal for the supply of wheat from Punjab to Delhi State during the year 1952; if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. A request was received and the Punjab Government have agreed to export 60,000 tons of country wheat to Delhi in the crop year 1952-53.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : At what rate is the wheat being supplied ?

Minister : Rate will be the same as in the Punjab.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is the Government satisfied that our State will be able to spare this quantity of wheat after meeting its own requirements ?

Minister : Yes. The Government is satisfied that they will be able to spare this much wheat for Delhi State.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does it mean that we will not have to import wheat from America ?

Mr. Speaker : How does a question about American wheat or any other wheat follow from the answer?

Minister : Sir, I am prepared to answer it.

Mr. Speaker : I do not want a Minister to answer a question which does not arise out of the main question.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Sir, how many supplementary questions can be asked ?

Mr. Speaker : No limit is laid down. It depends on the different questions and their answers.

IMPORT OF WHEAT BY LANDLORDS RESIDING IN RATIONED AREA.

*52, **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to State :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the hardships arising out of the restrictions on import of wheat into rationed areas by landlords of the district who are not permitted to eat the produce of their own soil;
- (b) whether Government have received any representations by the landlords seeking permission of the Government to import wheat into rationed areas within the district equal in quantity of the ration for the year; if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) No substantial hardship is involved to the Landlords who draw rations from the prescribed sources along with other consumers. Under statutory rationing, all consumers have to be treated equally and equitably, whether they are landlords or otherwise.

[Minister for Local Government]

- (b) Representations are received from time to time. In 1949 the Government agreed to allow the producers, residing within the rationed town and owning land within the Revenue estate of that town, to use their own grain against their entitlement on the ration card for the year. No further relaxation of the provisions of the rationing order is possible in the interest of successful working of the Monopoly Procurement and Rationing Schemes.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Minister be pleased to state the reason for the anomaly that while the producers who have got their lands within the rationed areas are allowed to keep foodgrains for their own consumption, the zamindars who have got their lands outside the rationed areas are not allowed to import foodgrains for their own consumption ?

Minister : The reason is that the number of such producers who have got their lands within the rationed areas is small while the number of producers who have their lands outside the rationed areas is very large. If all of them are allowed to import foodgrains into rationed areas the work of the department will increase to such an extent that the Government will have to open another department for this additional work. However, Government is considering the question of providing rationing facilities to more people in this connection.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, the Minister for Local Government has been pleased to state that the Government will have to establish a new department if all the producers are allowed to import their produce for their own consumption into the rationed areas. May I ask the Minister whether the present staff of his department is not so large as to cope with this work ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir,

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, you will please allow me to get a full answer to the question which has already been admitted.

Mr. Speaker : I may state for the information of the Lady Member that it is the Speaker and not a Minister who decides whether a supplementary question is relevant or not. You can ask only a relevant question.

Minister : Sir, I request you to kindly allow those questions also to be answered for which the Ministers are prepared.

Mr. Speaker : I propose to be guided by the rules. I am not going to be dictated to by anybody.

Minister : This is your sweet will, Sir.

Shri Devi Lall : Will the Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the labourers who live in rationed areas do not get sufficient ration ?

Mr. Speaker : It appears that the hon. Member has not read the question carefully.

COMPLETION OF METALLED AND UNMETALLED ROADS IN THE STATE AFTER THE PARTITION.

***30. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the length of metalled and unmetalled, roads that were completed in the State after the partition ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : 256 miles of roads have been metalled and 41 miles of old metalled roads improved in the State after the partition. No unmetalled road has been newly constructed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government made any provision in this Budget for the construction of roads ?

Minister : Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reasons why the mileage of roads constructed in 1951-52 was less than that in 1948 ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise either out of the original question or out of the answer given by the hon. Minister.

ABIANA IN MUKERIAN SUB TEHSIL.

***79. Shri Rala Ram :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that abiana in the area irrigated by Shah Nahar in Mukerian Sub Tehsil has been raised six hundred per cent after the partition; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : 1. The water rates levied are now brought in line with those prevailing on other canals in the State. In some cases it has been increased about 6 times.

2. After the transfer of Shah Nahar Canal to the Irrigation Branch, extensive works have been carried out with a view to feeding the canal with an assured supply both at the time of sowing and maturing of crops.

Shri Rala Ram : May I know whether these rates of abiana are the same as prevalent in Amritsar and Ferozepore districts or are they original rates ?

Minister : These are the rates of Upper Bari Doab for the Kharif crop, the period for which is from May to October and the rates have been increased six times.

Shri Rala Ram : Whether it is a fact that this matter has not been kept in view that the land of Mukerian is much inferior to the land of Amritsar and Ferozepore districts. There is no water head in this area.

Minister : But rice is produced there. The land which is capable of producing good quality of rice cannot be said to be inferior.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is it not a fact that the canal in Mukerian is much smaller than that in Amritsar and Ferozepore ? It can safely be called a small 'nala'.

Minister : We shall charge less.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How much produce is being obtained by this canal ?

Minister : It is difficult for me to say about the produce, but I can tell about the area irrigated by it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : When the Government has increased the abiana rates, it must have been done on certain considerations. What are those considerations ?

Minister : It has been raised to bring it to the same level with other places in the State.

Captain Ranjit Singh : You always keep in your mind how to raise the rates. You never consider how to lower them.

CONFIRMATION OF P. W. D. ROAD INSPECTORS.

***90. Shri Babu Dayal :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the P. W. D. Road Inspectors are not permanent at present; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes, the Road Inspectors employed in the P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch are not permanent, as they are members of establishment chargeable to estimates of annual maintenance of roads, and do not belong to regular establishment.

Shri Babu Dayal : Can we hope that they will be confirmed ?

Minister : Yes. The Government is considering the matter.

Shrimati Sita Devi : How much time will the Government take in arriving at some decision ?

Minister : It is hoped to be decided in the near future.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What time should we take for 'near future' ?

Minister : Nine months. (*Laughter*).

Shri Babu Dayal : On a point of order, Sir. In my opinion the period of nine months given by the hon. Minister should not have been given.

AREA AFFECTED WITH THUR AND SEM IN THE STATE.

108. Sardar Adhar Singh :- Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the area of land affected with Thur and Sem districtwise in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :-

District.	Thur in acres.	Sem in acres.	Total.
1. Ferozepore.	29842	239	30081
2. Amritsar.	27198	620	27818
3. Gurgaon.	7852	6	7858
4. Karnal.	3367	4454	7821
5. Ambala.	337	2544	2881
6. Gurdaspur.	105	3114	3219
7. Rohtak.	916	947	1863
8. Hissar.	1396	—	1396
9. Ludhiana.	617	{ 760	1377
10. Hoshiarpur.	—	{ 196	196
Total.	71630	12880	84510

Government is very well aware of the recent increase of Sem and Thur in the province and is contemplating the creation of drainage circles.

VISUAL TEST, SPECIAL SEM AND THUR GIRDAWARIS DONE
IN THE STATE.

*109. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the visual test special sem thur girdawaris are being done by the Civil and Irrigation branch as was decided by the Waterlogging Board in the Joint Punjab; if so, the result of these girdawaris;
- (b) whether the thur is on the increase or on the decrease;
- (c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the steps Government proposes to take to have correct and up-to-date knowledge of the thur problem;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the thur and sem menace in Amritsar, Ferozepore and Karnal districts; if so, does the Government propose to start the reclamation of such deteriorated lands to increase the food production of the State?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Special Visual Test has been discontinued since March, 1948.

- (b) The thur is on the increase.
- (c) Ordinary thur and sem girdawari is already being done twice a year in March and October and statistics relating to the effect of thur and sem are collected.
- (d) First part Yes.

Second Part :—

The proposal has been considered by Government, but it is not possible to start reclamation of such lands at present for want of funds and shortage of canal water.

CANAL WATER DISPUTE IN THE STATE.

*112. **Sardar Sshmsheer Singh :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) what is done to ensure even distribution of water in case a chak includes more than one village;
- (b) the number of villages in the State which have been deprived of canal water due to lack of water courses for the last 10 and 5 years respectively;
- (c) the number of breaches and cuts, separately, which occurred on the Sirhind Canal during the year 1946-47 and the year 1950-51

respectively and the amount of "tawan" which was levied year-wise. ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh:

- (a) To ensure even distribution of water any shareholder of the outlet can apply for framing of Warabandi under Section 68 of the Canal and Drainage Act VIII of 1873.
- (b) The relevant information is not readily available and I think the labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.
- (c) The required information is given below:—

Year	No. of breaches.	Charges assessed.	No. of cuts.	Charges assessed.
		Rs.		Rs.
1946-47	1	18	87	98,131
1950-51	—	—	104	92,840

Sardar Shamsher Singh : May I know whether the Government have taken any safeguards against the deliberate efforts on the part of the officials of the Irrigation Department to designate 'breaches' as 'cuts' ?

Minister : If the hon. Member can point out any specific instance action can be taken to set it right.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : It is a general practice.

Minister : But I am not aware of it.

PROCUREMENT OF RICE IN MUKERIAN SUB-TEHSIL.

***80 Shri Rala Ram :** Will the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in 1951-52 only eighty thousand bags of rice were procured from Mukerian Sub-Tehsil, while in 1950-51 as many as one lac and twenty-five thousand bags of rice were procured by Government from the same area;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the big fall in procurement is due to lack of adequate water-supply through the Shah Nahar ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) No. The total procurement of rice in Mukerian Sub-Tehsil in 1951-52 is 23705 bags from 1st. October 1951 to 31st May, 1952, against 72,375 bags procured in 1950-51 (i. e. from 1st October, 1950 to 30th September, 1951).

(b) The area under rice on Shah-Nahar Canal during Kharif 1950 was assessed as 14,552 acres whereas during Kharif 1951 it was 14,633. From this it would appear that there was no shortage of water on Shah-Nahar Canal during Kharif 1951.

ABOLITION OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

***81. Shri Rala Ram:** Will the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to abolish district boards and establish local Panchayat Mandals in their place for discharging their functions in the State ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : No.

QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE APPOINTMENTS OF DISTRICT ENGINEERS.

***89. Shri Babu Dayal Sharma :** Will the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the minimum qualifications necessary for the appointment of a District Engineer in any of the District Boards in the State ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The technical qualifications are similar to those prescribed for the recruitment of officers to the Punjab Service of Engineers, B. & R. Branch, as contained in clause (c) of Rule 5 of the Punjab Service of Engineers (B. & R. Branch) Rules, 1942, published in Punjab Government Notification No. 16-ES/26/990-E, dated the 11th March, 1942; and, in addition, five years' professional standing is necessary. With the previous sanction of the State Government a district board can, however, appoint an Engineer who does not possess such qualifications

Shri Babu Dayal Sharma : May I know whether the appointment of unqualified persons to such posts leads to in-efficiency in the work ?

Minister : It is very rare that essential qualifications are waived and that only where there are sound reasons for departure.

Shri Babu Dayal Sharma : Is it not a fact that in the matter of waiving such qualifications there is much scope for favouritism etc. ?

Minister : There is no question of any favouritism.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know the special grounds on which essential qualifications are generally waived ?

Minister : If the hon. Lady Member desires to know about some particular case, the grounds can be stated with reference to that, otherwise it is not possible to give them.

GRANTS TO PANCHAYATS FOR SANITARY PURPOSES.

***98. Shri Samar Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government gave an undertaking during May, 1951 that Panchayats would get grants equal to the voluntary contributions collected by them for sanitation purposes; if so, the action taken consequent on that undertaking ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : No undertaking to this effect was given by Government after a proper examination of the case. However, promises to this effect were held out by officers of the Panchayat Department. Government have now decided to contribute an amount equivalent to 75% of the collections raised by Panchayats during a period of 5 years and a provision of Rs. 8 lacs has been made for this purpose in the Schedule of New Expenditure, which requires the approval of Legislature.

Shri Samar Singh : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that certain amount has been granted for the Panchayats in the State may I.....

Minister : There is no question of any specific grant for the purpose. What I have stated is that the Government has given an undertaking to help the Panchayats provided they try to collect voluntary subscriptions among themselves.

RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES FOOD AND RATIONING DEPARTMENTS OF THE STATE.

***111. Sardar Shamsher Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of officers recruited in the Civil Supplies, Food and Rationing Departments in the State after the partition;
- (b) whether it is a fact that such officers were appointed by the Heads of the Departments;
- (c) whether the cases of such officers were ever referred to the Public Service Commission for verification of their suitability for such appointments ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) 216 including permanent Government servants.

(b) No.

(c) Civil Supplies Department was exempted from the purview of the Public Service Commission till early 1950. Cases of the officers recruited after early 1950 are being referred to the Public Service Commission.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the grounds for not making such recruitment through the Public Service Commission ?

Minister : Under certain circumstances the Government of the time was unable to do so, but since early 1950 the cases of officials recruited to this department have been referred to the Public Service Commission.

OPENING OF NEW SCHOOLS AND NEW HOSPITALS IN THE STATE

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of new schools and new hospitals opened in the State after the partition ?

*** 31 Shri Jagat Narain :** The total number of new schools of all categories opened in the State after the partition up to 31st March, 1952 is 730. There is an increase of 162 high schools and 805 primary schools. The number of lower middle schools and middle schools has gone down by 237. The lower middle schools have either been raised to middle schools or reduced to primary schools and many of the middle schools have been up-graded to high schools.

The number of hospitals and dispensaries opened after the partition for the same period is 84.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the progress made in the sphere of education is in accordance with the various plans formulated by the Government from time to time ?

Minister : Of course, the progress at this stage is not as it should be, due to various reasons but we are trying to do our best in this matter and hope that soon we will be able to make a considerable headway.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : May I know the number of schools opened in rural and urban areas separately ?

Minister : This question requires a fresh notice.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will a certain number of new schools and hospitals be meant for women ?

Minister : This thing will be kept in view.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : At the time of preparation of the Budget did the Government prepare any plan for opening new schools and hospitals ?

Minister : The programme for the current year is before the House.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Minister has stated that the Government is thinking about the number of new schools and hospitals to be opened. Will these be in addition to those for which provision has been made in the Budget ?

Minister : Yes. These will be in addition to those provided for in the Budget.

Shrimati Sita Devi : When the Government prepared the Budget, did they keep in view the necessity of making it a rule that a certain percentage of the new schools and hospitals should be for women ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

PUBLICATION AND SALE OF TEXT BOOKS.

***71. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the list of publishers to whom the work of publication and sale of text books has been entrusted for the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 by the Punjab Government;
- (b) the principles and procedure adopted in making selection of publishers and authors;
- (c) the amount of surcharge received by the Government for the year 1951-52 publisher-wise;
- (d) whether any prices were fixed for the text books; if so, the schedule of rates;
- (e) whether any complaints have been received by the Government about the publication and sale of text books for the year 1951-52 ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) The lists are laid on the Table*

- (b) Authors and publishers were not selected and therefore the question of principles and procedure for their selection does not arise. For the selection of books, however, the following procedure was adopted :—

*Kept in the Library.

[Minister for Education]

- (i) Authors and publishers were asked to submit books written according to the syllabus prescribed.
- (ii) Books received were sent for review to several reviewers.
- (iii) Views of the reviewers were assessed by a Committee consisting of E. S., Chairman Public Service Commission and a High Court Judge.
- (iv) The recommendations of the Committee were approved by the Government.
- (c) No surcharge was received by the Government. Possibly what the honble. Member has in mind is whether the Government received any share of the royalty. The Government received from the publishers 5% of royalty on the sale price of approved books. Statement giving particulars of royalty received is laid.*
- (d) Yes. The schedule of rates adopted this year as also the one for the last year is laid on the Table.*
- (e) Yes. They have been attended to. If the hon. Member has any specific point in mind, I shall be happy to have it investigated.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Has the Government constituted some Board for publishing books? If so, how many books have been prepared by that Board and how many of those have been published?

Minister : No Board has been constituted by the Government yet, but the persons appointed for the purpose have prepared twenty seven books. Four of these have been published and the rest will come in the market in about a week.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In his reply the hon. Minister stated that he was laying three statements on the Table of the House but I have not been supplied copies of any one of these. How can the Member asking the question put supplementaries if he is not supplied copies of the statements laid on the Table? Under the rules it was essential that I should have been supplied their copies in advance.

Minister : The hon. Member can have these now.

PRIVILEGE MOTION

Mr. Speaker : Now we will proceed to the next item on the list of business, as the list of questions for to-day has been exhausted. There is

***Kept in the Library.**

a Privilege Motion sent by Sardar Achhar Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh, Sardar Nidhan Singh and Sardar Chanan Singh to the following effect.—

We beg leave to move a Privilege Motion on the question of failure of the Assembly Office to provide question in Punjabi, depriving a majority of members of the House from participating in the Question Hour.

Mr. Speaker. Without meaning any disrespect to these hon. Members, I would like to point out that all the questions of which they gave notice were written in English. In fact, almost all the questions of which notices have been received in my office up till now are in English. There might be a question or two in some other language. If these hon. Members desire to be supplied with the lists of questions in Punjabi, it involves a lengthy process. The questions received in the office are typed and then I admit or disallow them. After that these are got printed. For supplying questions to the hon. Members in Punjabi, these would have to be translated into and printed in that language. If the hon. Minister for Finance is prepared to sanction additional translators for my department, I shall have no objection to supplying these lists in Punjabi or any other language. According to the Constitution, official record has to be in English. Not only did these hon. Members send their questions in English but even the Privilege Motion of which they have given notice now is in English. Leaving aside the legal aspect of the matter, I wish to assure the hon. Members that if I am given the necessary staff I shall get all the questions translated into the language or languages in which they want them. They should, however, not lose sight of the difficulties which will have to be overcome before this can become possible.

Shri Samar Singh : I sent all my questions in Hindi but still I have been supplied their lists in English.

Mr. Speaker : Constitutionally as I have already said the official records have to be in English for sometime. There is a clear provision in the Constitution to that effect. The question of breach of privilege, therefore, does not arise. As a matter of concession, I shall try to do all that is possible.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Mr. Speaker : I have received notice of an adjournment motion. It is to the following effect :—

Sardar Chanan Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh, Sardar Achhar Singh and Sardar Nidhan Singh asking for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the partisan speech delivered by the hon. Speaker, Dr. Satya Pal on May 24th, 1952, at a tea party at Amritsar in support of the Congress and against Communist and

[Mr. Speaker]

other Opposition Parties, thus departing from the established practice and traditions of the Speaker of the Assembly of maintaining himself above and completely neutral to all political parties.

Minister For Local Government : May I know whether the adjournment motion has been admitted or ruled out of order by the Chair ?

Mr. Speaker: Although it has not been admitted, yet the matter is such that I do not want it to be brushed aside. I would like it to be placed before the hon. Members in its entirety.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the Chair is to be guided by the sentiments and emotions even if the motion has been declared out of order ? If it is not in order, the motion should not be put before the House.

Minister for Local Government : May I know whether the motion has been read out to the House by the Members concerned ?

Mr. Speaker : Since I do not want to take shelter behind any technical defects, I want this matter, which is of vital importance to the House, to be thrashed out.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I draw the attention of the Speaker to the fact that the motion is to be moved by the sponsors before it is discussed.

Mr. Speaker : Well, hon. Members, an objection has been raised to my having made certain remarks at a tea party at Amritsar. In the first place I definitely and categorically make this statement that I stand by every word that I uttered there. I may point out that if an occasion arises, I would be prepared to repeat all that unreservedly. I am not the least sorry for what I said there. (*Cheers*). I am not going to retract even a comma from what I stated in that meeting. (*Renewed cheers*).

Now the position is that if you think that I made that speech in the capacity of Speaker, then I would like to read out a rule to you which clearly indicates that it almost amounts to an offence to cast any reflection on the Speaker. If you think that I made that speech as a private gentleman then you have no business to bring it here in this House. I may tell the House that reflection upon the character or action of the Speaker may be punished as a breach of privilege. Not only this. Speaker's action cannot be criticised incidentally in debate or in any form of procedure except by a substantive motion. Therefore, honestly speaking this adjournment motion is an infringement of my privileges and instead of their censuring me, I can confidently censure the sponsors of this motion because they are guilty of

insinuating or describing my action as unfair or illegal. The only redress for their complaint lies in bringing forward a substantive motion. If that is done, I would heartily welcome this move. (*Cheers*).

For the guidance of these gentlemen, I would like to refer them to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in this House. According to this Rule, the hon. Members can move a Resolution to remove the Speaker.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : They dare not take such a step.

Sardar Chanan Singh : It is for the time to show.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask these gentlemen as to why do they not fight the battle in the open arena with clean weapons. This button-hole wounding will be of no use. I believe in a straight fight. So why should they try to stab me in the back? But if they want to adopt these tactics, then I challenge them to come in the open House and bring an impeachment against me, if I have done anything which is not fair or honest.

Now the hon. Members would naturally ask why I am within my rights to remain a Congressman and advocate Congress doctrines. In this connection, I would like to cite opinions of hon. Speakers of other Legislatures and also that of the Speaker of the Parliament. He says :—

It would be wrong on the part of the Speaker in the present set-up to be quite out of politics and lose touch with public life and cease to exercise any influence on political trends. That is what led me to make a statement about my continuing to be a Congressman and other statements.

When he received congratulations on his election as Speaker of the Parliament he made the following observation :

While I shall be perfectly impartial and straight in my dealings with the hon. Members in the House I reserve to myself the right of remaining a Congressman.

He further remarked :

In thought I shall continue to be a member of the party, pay its subscriptions and discuss certain matters even though I am the Speaker of the House. (*cheers*).

I may further quote the hon. Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly on the subject :

There are no restrictions imposed by an outside authority on the Speaker, attending, addressing or participating in any public or party meetings.

As the hon. Members are aware we have all along followed this

(Mr. Speaker)

practice. They will be interested to hear the views of the hon. Speaker of Madhya Bharat Legislature :

There have been no restrictions imposed from outside on the movement of the Speaker of the Madhya Bharat Legislative Assembly.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I request the hon. Speaker not to take them seriously ?

Mr. Speaker : Others may not, but I do take the matter very seriously. Well, it has been said that a departure has been made from the established practice and traditions of the Speaker. But may I ask what those traditions are ?

They are the same which have been followed when the British were in charge of the House. But now the times have changed. This is the first time that a real party man has been selected as Speaker of the House. I may make it clear that I am not here at the mercy of the Opposition. The electorate has returned me here not as an individual or an independent man but as a person devoted to Congress ideals and embodying the principles of Mahatma Gandhi (*Cheers*). The hon. Members should not carry away the idea that since I got into this Chair, I would forego and give up all that I have learnt or worked for the whole of my life. (*Cheers*). It is my firm belief that traditions are made by men who are to uphold high ideals. There are several slavish traditions which are a legacy of the British and these we will trample under foot and instead establish healthy traditions. I am simply surprised to see that my Communist friends who left no weapon to decry the British should now, with a view to further their own interests, try to be guided by the British traditions. But may I draw their attention to the position of the Speaker according to the traditions set up by the British ? It will be easily understood that outside the House, in the purely social sphere the Speaker's rank was universally recognised as the highest. This was an important aspect of the Speaker's position in English political life. It is no exaggeration to say that the Speaker presides over a court and is surrounded by a ceremonial resembling that of the sovereign. It is obvious that the Speaker is held in high esteem and his position is unquestionable. The Speaker has many attributes of royalty. He lives in a royal palace. Of course, I do not possess such a thing. In his own sphere his word is law and if there is infringement of law by any hon. Member, he conveys that infringement to him through his office.

Sardar Gopal Singh : But these qualifications are of a Speaker who ceases to be a party man. If you act in that manner, then we would be the last to raise any objection to your speech.

Mr. Speaker : You are welcome to adopt any attitude or take any action. But I can tell the House that the British cannons have not slashed the conscience of this humble servant (*Hear, hear*). If the voice of conscience is to be listened to, then your threats will be of no avail (*Cheers*). At the most the hon. Members have the power to say that henceforward I could not remain the Speaker. I shall certainly welcome this. But if you think that I will barter my conscience for this Chair, you are entirely mistaken. I would rather prefer to leave the Chair than to continue to occupy it at the cost of my convictions and feelings. I am a Congressman and I mean to remain as such. Let the Leader of Opposition take note of this. I shall be impartial when I deal with the Members of the House. I again repeat that if they want to change my convictions, ideals and programme then they will have to knock at someone else's door. Within the twinkling of an eye I can spurn all the paraphernalia if I am asked to change my views or give up the Congress. If today I am made to accept this position tomorrow my hon. Friends can come to me and say that they object to my wearing a Gandhi cap because this is an emblem of Gandhism and Congress. But I may assure the House that this will not happen.

My hon. Friends can bring a substantive motion against me and give expression to their views. If I fail to convince the House and the House is of the opinion that because the man presiding over its deliberations must change his views and life-long convictions, then I should like to point out that I will go out like the proverbial 'marwari' who goes with a lota and a piece of string to Bombay or Calcutta to earn a living. They should not think that I have given up my small house, and if any price is to be paid for my convictions I am prepared to pay it (*Cheers.*)

✓ Now about the technical part of the motion. I rule this adjournment motion out of order.

Then there is another, adjournment motion;

Sardar Chanan Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh, Sardar Nidhan Singh, Sardar Achhar Singh, asking for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the gross negligence of the Irrigation Department resulting in a serious breach in

(Mr. Speaker)

the silting tank Sirkian, in the Upper Bari Doab Canal, near Gurdaspur, causing flooding of village Kotli Sonian, District Gurdaspur, destruction of wheat crops and heavy loss to the inhabitants of the area, many of whom have been reduced to destitution.

Since the Budget Session is now in full swing, the hon. Members will have ample opportunity to say whatever they like on this subject. I, therefore, rule this adjournment motion out of order.

The following adjournment motions are also ruled out of order for the reasons already stated above :—

Sardar Chanan Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh, Sardar Achhar Singh, Sardar Nidhan Singh, ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the gross defects revealed in the Government of India Estimates Committee in relation to construction of Bhakra and Nangal projects.

Sardar Chanan Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh, Sardar Achhar Singh and Sardar Nidhan Singh, ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the inadequacy of relief promised by the Government to the famine-stricken people of Hissar district.

Sardar Chanan Singh, Sardar Nidhan Singh, Sardar Achhar Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh, ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the extreme resentment prevailing in twenty one Karnal District villages, because of imposition of very heavy punitive fines on the residents thereof and the danger of breach of peace arising from this resentment.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members are aware of the fact that in the beginning of every Session it is the duty of the Speaker to appoint a Panel of Chairmen who in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker conduct the proceedings of the House. The hon. Members whose names follow have been appointed by me as Members of this Panel :—

1. Shrimati Shanno Devi.
2. Sardar Harbhajan Singh.
3. Sardar Ajmer Singh.
4. Shri Mool Chand Jain.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Speaker : Now I have to announce the names of the Members of the House Committee. They are :—

1. Sardar Gurdial Singh.
2. Sardar Saroop Singh.
3. Shri D. D. Puri.
4. Sardar Achhar Singh.
5. Sardar Gurbanta Singh.

PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

I have also to announce the formation of the Petitions Committee. It will consist of the following hon. Members : —

1. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Deputy Speaker, Ex-Officio Chairman.
2. Shri Rizaq Ram.
3. Shri Jagdish Chander Advocate.
4. Shrimati Parkash Kaur.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

THE MAJOR HEADS IN SCHEDULE

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) Sir, I move :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4, 37, 25, 830 be granted "on account" to the Governor to defray charges that will come in the course of payment during the period of four months beginning on the 1st day of April, 1952, in respect of major heads named in the Schedule.

In a few words I might explain to the House the purport and the purpose of this motion which I have just moved. I hope the hon. Members have gone through the brochure that I have supplied to them in this connection and examined every item included in it. The necessity of moving this motion has arisen owing to the fact that the Budget for the year 1952-53 will not get the vote of this House as well as the Legislative Council before the end of July and meanwhile the Government will be called upon to defray various charges under these items. It is with a view to meet this need that assent of this House is being sought to incur expenditure before the whole Budget is passed. The money that had been voted by the Parliament at the instance of the Governor for these purposes was insufficient and hence the necessity of bringing this motion before the House.

Before the Budget is actually passed, Government will have to spend money on various items, such as relief work in famine affected areas of Hissar, purchase of foodgrains, etc. which cannot brook delay. It is our good fortune that zamindars are bringing larger quantities of wheat to the market this year as compared with the last year. It is usually before the

[Minister for Finance]

rainy season that wheat is brought to the markets for sale and we need the requisite money to purchase it very urgently and so long as the House does not give its assent we cannot spend anything on this side. Besides these two chief items, there are some other minor items also on which we have to spend money in the very near future. It is with this object in view that I expect the House to vote this money for the Government.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved ;

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,37,25,830 be granted "on account" to the Governor to defray charges that will come in the course of payment during the period of four months beginning on the 1st day of April, 1952 in respect of major heads named in the Schedule.

Now I have received notices of several amendments to this motion. Although some of the amendments have not come in time, yet I have allowed them to be treated as having been received in time. They are to the following effect:—

DEMAND No. 54—Famine.

Sardar Achhar Singh.

Sardar Chanan Singh.

Sardar Darshan Singh.

Sardar Nidhan Singh.

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1.

DEMAND No. 85—A.

(Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading).

Sardar Chanan Singh.

Sardar Darshan Singh.

Sardar Nidhan Singh.

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF VOTE ON ACCOUNT.

Shri Parabodh Chandra :

That the total amount of Rs. 4, 37, 25, 830 on account of 'vote on Account' be reduced by Rs. 100.

54-FAMINE.

Sardar Bachan Singh.

Shri Wadhawa Ram.

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1

85—A

Sardar Bachan Singh.

Shri Wadhawa Ram.

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1.

All the amendments cited above should be treated as moved and Members will have a right to discuss or make reference to them during their speeches. I believe that the amendment of Shri Prabodh Chandra will cover quite a wide ground and I call upon him to speak.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (Hindi) : Sir, before I make my submissions with regard to my motion, I would like to thank the hon. Speaker for having waived the condition of two days, notice in the case of my amendment and admitting it irrespective of the fact that it was not received in time and thus giving me an opportunity to speak on it. As is clear from the wording of my motion, I want to raise discussion on the great disparity prevailing between the procurement and sale prices of wheat and the variations in prices from one market to the other. Sir, it is an extremely regrettable fact that the Government which carries on trade on such a vast scale purchases wheat from the zamindars at rates ranging from Rs. 12 to 12½ per maund and sells the same to the poor consumers at no less than Rs. 15/8/0 a maund. I think it would be considered highly improper on the part of any trader to reserve for himself a profit of 20% to 30%.

Therefore, Sir, the Government should not charge higher rates from the public. It should charge Rs. 12/- to Rs. 12/4/- per maund i.e. at the price it purchases its stocks. Government should give adequate relief to people in the matter of wheat prices.

The next thing, which I want to place before the House, is that when the wheat is brought into the markets by the zamindars, it is not in a cleaned form and in it they have already suffered a loss of 1½ to 2 seers per maund due to the occurrence of shortage while cleaning it. But we find, Sir, that when this very wheat is supplied, it contains lot of dust. It is therefore, requested that the Government should always keep the interest of the public in its mind.

The next point towards which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that for the procurement of food-grains, preference is being given to big markets and big towns over the small mandies in spite of the fact that wheat is available at big places at Rs. 12/8 to Rs. 13/- per maund, while it can be obtained in small mandies even at Rs. 12/- to Rs. 12/8 per maund. Government should on no account pay different prices for wheat

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

i. e. it should not pay high prices in bigger markets and low prices in smaller markets. It should procure wheat in smaller mandies instead of buying most of the wheat in district towns. This would save the Government the extra expenditure of retransporting wheat to different places.

It is further requested, Sir, that the Government should procure only as much stocks as are necessary for feeding its rationed towns. It has also been found that in my District, at places like Dhariwal and Dina Nagar, the trade is being discouraged by the Government by giving only a small margin of profits. Government should rather, encourage trade at such small places.

You will be surprised to note, Sir, that the overhead expenses of the Civil Supplies Department in this State are higher than those of any other Government department in the world. In every town in the State you will find a large number of Inspectors. Someone is an Inspector for Sugar, another is for wheat and a third is for rice and so on. I would, therefore, request the Government to reduce the expenditure by reducing the number of such Inspectors. It should also arrange to look into the complaints of the public. The hon. Minister incharge of this department should not be led by its officers who are apt to misguide him.

Sardar Achhar Singh (Ajnala). (*Punjabi*). Sir, I would like to know, how much time has been allotted to me.

Mr. Speaker : Ten minutes.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, I request that at least 15 minutes be allotted to me.

Mr. Speaker : Let it be 12½ minutes, the golden mean.

Sardar Achhar Singh : There is difference in the versions of the Government agencies and the representatives of the public regarding the conditions prevailing in District Hissar. According to the Government version, it is a scarcity area but according to the private agencies it has become a famine-stricken area. Even now, the Government is under-estimating the gravity of these conditions.

The representatives of the public and the Press in the State who have visited Hissar in these days have given quite different versions from those given in the statements issued by the hon. Ministers. The former tell us that the situation is grave while the latter say that it is under control. The private agencies say that a large number of cattle have died in that District and a large number which had been left astray left the State by crossing over the Jamuna River. The labourers who are working at the relief works, opened by the Government, are being paid 7 annas daily for full

day's work while the women workers are being paid at the rate of 2 annas a day. Nearly one lakh cattle have died and the rest are dying. On the other hand our hon. Ministers tell us that the conditions are improving. In my opinion, Sir, due to under-estimating the gravity of the situation, the conditions may become worse. Even the method adopted for the distribution of fodder or the loans for fodder has been wrong. The practice of the past has been blindly followed. The distribution of loans has not been made through committees of the public, on the other hand it has been based on the reports of the Tehsildars.

Therefore, Sir, it is requested that Government should arrange to take these steps immediately so as to bring the situation under control. Firstly, the district should be immediately declared as a famine-stricken area and emergency steps be taken. Secondly, the wells in that area should be dug deep with the help of Military Engineers as was done at Rayalseema. Thirdly, the number of fodder depots be increased. Fourthly, the loans for the purchase of fodder should be increased and given in such amounts that all the cattle with each individual are saved. Fifthly, the Government should take into its custody all the disowned cattle and redistribute these among the public after this calamity has passed. Then more wells should be sunk and more spinning centres should be opened and the minimum daily wage should be 12 annas. Again, the daily wage for a labourer working at the relief centres should be at least Rs. 1/8/- for seven hours work. In addition to these I would suggest that the water in the West Jamuna Canal be increased and a constant supply of water to Hissar District be maintained. Last but not least, the whole district should be brought under Bhakhra scheme in order to ensure permanent safety of the people from famine.

Sir, the Government complains that we do not co-operate with it. The fact is that the old system of distribution of 'taccavi' loans, and of giving relief is being followed which is very defective. How can we co-operate with it?

Minister for Development : And you are using your old method of speaking.

Sardar Achhar Singh : In other words, Sir, the Government is following the old regime in every respect. The public has not been taken into confidence. They have not called any public meeting for this purpose. Nei-

[Sardar Achhar Singh]

ther have they cared to invite the cooperation of the public and, under these circumstances public cannot be expected to extend its cooperation to them.

Sir, my submission is that the hon. Ministers go and meet only the officers of the districts and those people who helped them in securing votes. They do not seek the cooperation of the public at large and of all parties and organisations. If this state of affairs continues no good can come out of it and the present scarcity conditions will persist. The steps, which the Government is taking, are quite inadequate to meet the emergency. As a matter of fact more taccavi loans should be advanced and a sufficient number of tube-wells should be sunk. I am sure the hon. Ministers will pay heed to my submissions and will try to redress the grievances of the people.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): My hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh has just now given expression to his views on the floor of this House. On the matter to which he has made references I would like to place my views also. It would be better if I try to be brief as the time at my disposal is short. I will try to place a few constructive suggestions before the Government in as short a time as possible. I think the relief measures which the Government are taking in Hissar in connection with the scarcity conditions prevailing there are inadequate and I won't be wrong if I say that they are a mere eye-wash. As a matter of fact the Government is trying to throw dust in the eyes of the public. For instance, only four seers of fodder per head is provided to the cows and that only to those yielding milk. Dry cows and other cattle are neglected. Similarly in the case of oxen only those bullocks are fed which are fit to be used for the purposes of cultivation in the fields. The rest are neglected. I would urge upon the Government the necessity of providing relief to all cattle without any discrimination so that the cattle wealth of our State may not suffer. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to submit that the item of expenditure on procurement of foodgrains appears to be very much in excess of the actual requirements. In this connection I would like to point out that the mode of procurement is defective. It does not take into account the interests of the peasants and the poor farmers, nor does it appear to be of any advantage to the Government

itself. This is because the manner in which procurement is done is faulty. Its main defect is due to the reason that the Government does not take the people into its confidence and does not care to enlist their cooperation. On the other hand, the work of procurement is got executed with the help of syndicates. The members of these syndicates have no soft corner for the poor. In fact, the big contractors do not care to look to the interests of the poor people and safeguard them. Sometime back a memorandum was submitted to the hon. Minister for Local Government requesting him to seek such cooperation. But nothing appears to have come out of it. If the Government really desires to improve the lot of the peasants and farmers it should try to enlist their cooperation, so that big businessmen and landlords may not be in a position to exploit the poor producers. Another thing which I very much like to state in this connection is that the landlords who have stores in their possession are generally cruel to the farmers and the labourers. In my own district I have noticed such people taking undue advantage of the simplicity of the Harijans and exploiting them. To add to their sufferings the police also comes in to heap additional sufferings upon their already burdened shoulders and to extract bribes out of their depleted pockets. On refusal to give bribes they are somehow or other involved in false cases. Such is the state of affairs and the poor people are at a loss to understand as to what to do. Sometime back in Ferozepore district some market committees were closed and a magistrate was vested with wide powers. Is it not dictatorship? In my opinion, under a democratic form of Government confidence should be reposed in the people. So I most humbly submit that the demand which is now before the House is unjustified and unnecessary. I would advise the Government to work on cooperative lines. In the matter of procurement of foodgrains the cooperation of the villagers is an essential pre-requisite. This will dispense with unnecessary expenditure on most of the staff which is at present working on procurement. Moreover, the grievances of the people will also be redressed to a certain extent. In the Budget for the year 1952-53 a sum of rupees twenty-one lakhs has been provided for storage accommodation. In my opinion the Government is wasting public funds without any necessity for it. As a matter of fact it should try to start co-operative societies in which the representatives of the peasants, shopkeepers and Harijans of the village should be included so that the villagers may also take some interest in this work. The Government can in this manner make considerable savings in expenditure. But it is regrettable that the same old bureaucratic regime of the British days still prevails and so the Congress Government is unable to enlist the cooperation of the people at large.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi) : Sir, the main item included in the demand under discussion is that of procurement. It is a very important item and if the Government pays a little more attention it can result in the good of Zamindars as well as of the Government. The old system of procurement which was adopted by the British Government is still being followed and no effort has been made to improve it. According to it, a Zamindar brings his produce to the market where first of all the Kacha Arhti charges his commission of twelve annas a maund. Then there have been formed grain syndicates consisting of Pucca Arhtis. These syndicates purchase grain from the Kacha Arhtis and charge a commission of one rupee per maund. Then comes the Government agent who charges another one rupee per maund. In this manner, these agencies charge two rupees and twelve annas per maund without the Government or the Zamindars deriving any benefit. Without investing a single penny these agencies earn huge sums of money. Kacha Arhtis ask Pucca Arhtis to make payment, who in turn ask the Government agents to do so. The latter obtain the price of grain from the Government and after passing through the hands of all the agencies it is paid to the Zamindar. So, the Zamindar receives the price of his produce on the second day. The Government can easily save this unnecessary expenditure by improving their procurement system. The amount thus saved can be used for the benefit of the Zamindars. Huge sums of money are earned by Arhtis and others in a very short period. I have drawn the attention of the Government to this matter in meetings of the District Civil Supplies Committee and when the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies visited Ludhiana, I explained to him the necessity of modifying the present system of procurement. The Minister promised to look into the matter but as the hon. Members are aware, the Zamindars will bring all their produce in the market in the next ten or fifteen days. Will the Government arrive at some decision after that period ?

The present system is of no advantage either to the Government or to the Zamindars. The Government has been declaring proudly that the procurement this year has been very heavy. May I know what the Government did in that behalf ? Better procurement was due to more production and the inability of the Zamindars to hold their produce for even a short period.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Grow More Food and Agriculture Department schemes of the Government. As regards the latter, the officers never take the trouble of going to villages. In district Ludhiana, the Deputy Commissioner enquired from the officers of this department, the number of tube-wells in the district and the number of times they had

visited the farms. They were unable to give any information. I wanted to know as to which particular crop should be grown on lands watered by a particular tube-well, but the officers of Agriculture Department were unable to give any advice. If this Department cannot offer advice to the Zamindars even in such matters, what is the use of it? As regards the Grow More Food work, out of the funds received from the Central Government, our Government decided to give additional pay of Rs. 500 p. m. to the Director of Agriculture to whom this work has been entrusted. Motor cars and jeeps have been purchased in which Deputy Commissioners and other officers enjoy rides. Nothing whatsoever is done to increase the production of food grains. In the District Civil Supplies Committee, Ludhiana, I enquired whether we should grow jawar or some other crop.

Minister for Development : What is jawar ?

Sardar Wazir Singh : I was of the opinion that if there was anybody in the Cabinet who understood these things, it was hon. Sardar Partap Singh, but I am sorry to find him so ignorant. What is popularly known as " Chari " is called jawar in my district. There are 937 villages in district Ludhiana, for which only 2000 maunds of jawar had been supplied. It meant two maunds per village. What could the Zamindars make of it? They could simply get it roasted and eat it. What good can be expected of a Government which cannot supply even seeds? At first the prices of jawar were controlled at Rs. 8 or Rs. 8/4 per maund but afterwards the control was relaxed and people were permitted to sell it at any price they liked. What will be the result of it? Chari crop is sown in one or two days only and the Zamindars have to purchase seed within this period. The traders will sell it at thirty rupees or forty rupees per maund and lakhs of rupees will be made in a couple of days. I have requested the Deputy Commissioner a number of times to permit the import of ' Chari ' seeds from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh but he did not agree to it. If import is permitted and ceiling price is fixed at even fifteen rupees or twenty rupees per maund, the Zamindars will be benefited to a great extent. Our Government cannot supply even seeds to the Zamindars but the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies tells us that our State is surplus in food and that we are feeding other States also. If we are surplus in food, why does the Government not decontrol it and put an end to rationing? Lakhs of rupees are being, at present, spent in the form of salaries of the establishments of Civil Supplies and Rationing Departments. Cheap grain-shops should be opened to ensure the supply of wheat at a reasonable price and rationing should be abolished as early as possible.

[S. Wazir Singh.]

I had the opportunity of reading election manifestoes issued by the Congress party before the attainment of independence. It used to be stated therein that as soon as the country became free, the Congress would banish illiteracy, poverty and disease. Hospitals were promised in every village at a distance of three or four miles from each other. Free education was declared as one of its important objectives. What has actually been the position since 1947? Take for instance the question of education. In many cases grants for education have been reduced after 1947. As Chairman of Ludhiana District Board, I can tell the House that before 1947, out of the total Budget of twelve lakhs of rupees, a major portion was spent by the Board on education. The Government used to give a grant of Rs. 176,000 for primary education. Now when the District Board has a revenue of Rs. 26 lakhs ...

Minister for Finance : Is it in order, Sir. We are discussing 'Vote on Account'. It is not a general discussion of the Budget.

Sardar Wazir Singh : I was submitting, Sir, that the Government had reduced the grant of the District Board, Ludhiana, by Rs. 46,000 and only Rs. 130,000 is being given for education now. Education should have been free. I shall request the Government to consider these things dispassionately.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) (Hindi) : Sir, in the discussion that has so far taken place on the Demand moved by the Finance Minister today Civil Supplies Department has figured prominently. The remarks and observations made about it lead me to think that many a hon. Member is labouring under some misunderstandings with regard to the functioning of this Department. If they will listen to me carefully I hope their minds would be disabused of all these misunderstandings.

One of the most deep-rooted misconceptions prevalent about this department is the impression that the Government is making a good deal of profit, thanks to the difference between the sale and procurement prices of food grains and thus cheating the zamindar of his due. To dispel this wrong impression I repeat with all the emphasis at my command that this department is being run on 'no profit, no loss' basis and so it is wrong to say that Government is outdoing the worst black-marketers.

I also repudiate the allegation that there is any arbitrary distinction among the mandis with regard to the rates of food grains. It is true that the rates of wheat in various mandis of the State range from Rs. 12/12/- to

Rs. 15/8/- but this small disparity in rates is being maintained purposely. A little higher rate is being allowed in mandis situated near the border to guard against the export of grains to the neighbouring States like Delhi and thus ensure their supply to rationed towns within our own State. Average procurement price of wheat is about Rs. 14/8/-. And I can assure the Members that nowhere in India are the overhead charges on rationed foodgrains so low as in this State. (*Cheers*). These charges come to Rs. 1/6/- per maund only and cover charges for storage, care, defects etc. This is not all. In regard to shortages also, the procurement policy of the Punjab is more successful than that of any other State. There is no other State which can compare favourably with us in this matter. The efficient, faultless — almost perfect manner in which the procurement scheme in this State is working is the envy of the whole of India. (*Loud cheers*). Were I or somebody belonging to my department to say this, it might have been taken at a discount. But the opinion of such high authorities as the Planning Commission is there to testify to what I have said. It was also admitted at the Food-Ministers' Conference held at Bombay that foodgrains procurement system of the Punjab could serve as a model to others. Surely, these authorities have no particular reason to praise our work without any justification.

Then, objection has been taken to our policy of continuing the controls for the present in spite of our being a surplus State. My submission is that Madras has already started experimenting with de-control.

We are watching the situation there with keen interest. If the experiment proves a success, we might also take a step in this direction. But as to why we do not launch a policy of decontrol immediately, we have very strong reasons. Even the hon. Prime Minister of India has in his recent broadcast to the nation cautioned us against taking hasty steps in this matter. He has made it clear that the time has not yet come for immediate reversion to decontrol in all the States irrespective of the conditions obtaining therein. We have already had a bitter experience in this matter when in deference to the wishes of the late-lamented Mahatma Gandhi decontrol was resorted to and immediately the prices of foodgrains had shot up and the distress of the people had become so acute that there were demonstrations all over the country. The result was that controls had to be reimposed soon afterwards. I am sure that if such a situation arises again, those very hon. Members who now make a demand for decontrol would be found at the head of such demonstrations and processions and the difficulties of the Government would increase manifold.

[Minister for Local Government]

Let it be clearly understood that we are not enamoured of controls. Nor are we unaware of the hardships involved in them. But it is precisely with a view to saving people from possibly greater hardships and privations that we want to continue them for sometime more. Today our procurement system is working excellently. Tomorrow if we decide to decontrol, the zamindar who is now sparing some quantity of foodgrains will start concealing it and resort to hoarding. The shopkeeper will follow suit, and then woe betide the consumer! (Laughter). When Madras launched on a policy of decontrol, hopes were expressed that the Punjab might follow suit. Its immediate effect was that the procurement which was at its peak started falling off after 7th June. Selfishness is ingrained in human nature. If we abolish control today, hoarding will be started immediately by those who do not hesitate to trade on the misfortunes of others.

The allegation that we are according a preferential treatment to big mandis is also baseless, though as I have already stated a small difference in rates is allowed in mandis situated near the border to guard against export of foodgrains to the neighbouring States.

I may also inform the hon. Members that an agricultural labourer is not now under any restriction in regard to carrying home at any one time upto one and a half maunds of foodgrains received by him as remuneration from the producer for work done on his fields. He will not experience any difficulty in this matter any longer.

Besides this, criticism has been levelled against the Government that a large number of Inspectors has been employed under the Food Procurement Scheme. This objection seems to be quite reasonable and I may assure the House that the staff which is considered to be in excess of requirement will be retrenched and the establishment brought to the level which is absolutely necessary for the smooth running of the Department.

Then, Sir, it has been said that the Government is not fully alive to the interests of the people and the Ministers conduct themselves in such a way that they merely lend their signatures to whatever recommendation is made by the Heads of Departments. I would strongly repudiate this charge and submit that the Heads of Departments submit cases with their recommendations and the Ministers scrutinise such cases with care and consideration and pass, quite independently, such orders as they consider to be in the best interests of the people of the State. It is entirely wrong to say that the Ministers have no broad outlook and they do not work for the welfare of the people. It is very unfortunate that the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches should malign the Ministers in this way and attempt to run them

down in the eyes of the public.

Then, Sir, objection has been raised against the setting up of Commission Agencies of 'Kacha Arhtis' and 'Pakka Arhtis' which charge Rs. 2/8/- per maund as their commission for procurement of foodgrains. In case these agencies are abolished it would mean that we should close down the trade which is in progress after the imposition of controls. By allowing this commission we have left scope for these 'Kacha Arhtis' to earn their living. Similarly 'Pakka Arhtis' have also been given protection to earn a small sum by way of commission where as these people earned a lot before the imposition of controls. On the contrary, if the Government were to make arrangements for the procurement of foodgrains itself without the aid of these agencies then it may result in some saving of money paid by way of commission to these Arhtis but on the other hand the Government will have to employ a plethora of officers for procurement purposes resulting in an enormous increase in Government's expenditure. In that event it will invite criticism from all quarters that there is no justification for Government spending so much money on the staff. Moreover, it has been suggested that the work of these Arhtis can conveniently be entrusted to the Co-operative Bodies and Syndicates. I may make it clear that I myself do not favour the idea of one man appropriating a lion's share of profits for himself and I may assure the House that the Government would not like this state of affairs to continue for a long time.

Then, Sir, it has been remarked that the Government has spent lakhs of rupees on the construction of improved types of godowns and storage bins for storage of cereals. In this connection I may submit that the Department of Civil Supplies has provided a good standard of storage arrangements which it is difficult to find in any other State. If at any time this storage accommodation is not required then there would be many people forthcoming to purchase these godowns on prices higher than the gross expenditure actually involved in the construction of these godowns. The Government, therefore, does not stand to lose anything on them. As regards the objection that the peasants are not getting a fair deal at the hands of the Government inasmuch as their produce does not fetch better prices, I regret that I will not be able to dilate on this point as I have no time at my disposal and I therefore leave it for my hon. Friend, the Finance Minister to reply to it.

Mr. Speaker : Those hon. Members who have given notices of amendments and who have not so far taken part in the debate have the prior right to speak. I would, therefore, call upon Sardar Bachan Singh to make a speech.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Bagha Purana) (Punjabi) : Sir, the subject of Food Procurement is at present under discussion by this House. I may submit in this connection that wheat is produced mostly in villages and the peasant and agricultural labourer are the persons who grow it, the active part in this being taken by the latter. It is he who dedicates his whole life for growing food for us and is in fact a giver of bread to the nation. As a matter of fact it is in the interests of every body that wheat should remain where it is produced and its free movement should not be allowed from one place to another. If no restrictions are imposed on the free movement of this commodity, its price would automatically increase. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should take steps to control its movement from one place to another. It is strange that the wheat which is cleaned by the Zamindars three times before bringing it to the market for sale is often found to be unfit for human consumption at the time of purchase. It is full of stones, dirt, gram and barley. The poor people in villages have to face a great difficulty in bringing wheat for themselves from the district headquarters as sometime they have no funds to meet the conveyance charges. It is, therefore, necessary that there should be enough stock of wheat in every village where wheat is actually produced. It is really strange that "there should be no water in the hooka of a boatman." It is also an irony of fate that the peasant who is a bread-giver to the people should himself feel difficulty in getting wheat for himself as the Government do not keep any stock of wheat in villages.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (Punjabi) : Sir, I would like to tell the House that Harijans have been the worst sufferers under the Food Procurement Scheme. These people own no land and thus are not in a position to keep any stock of wheat for themselves. They have to go out of their villages in order to eke out their livelihood and when, after sometime, they return to their villages they are not permitted to keep with them any stock of wheat which simply adds to their cares and worries. This state of affairs can hardly be justified. In these circumstances, I would request the Government that it should allow these poor people to keep with them some stock of wheat to satisfy their urgent needs in case of emergency. Another thing is that our women folk are harassed while picking wheatears (sittas) in the fields. Why go far? Only recently in Simla a woman was challaned.

Then the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies has remarked that Government do not make any profit on the purchase and supply of foodgrains to

the people in rationed towns. But I do not see eye to eye with him. Let me cite one example. 'Jhona' paddy is purchased from a peasant at the rate of Rs. 8/- a maund. But Government sells it at the rate of Rs. 40/- a maund. May I know what does the excess amount of Rs. 32/- indicate? Is it not a profit? If not, what else is it?

Again, Sir, in the villages, depot holders do not care to give rationed articles of food to the poor Harijans on loan. Unless the Harijans pay the full amount, they cannot get their rations.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (Punjabi) : Sir, I would like to say a few words before entering upon my subject. I stood up three or four times, but I failed to catch your eye. Probably the Ministers are fortunate enough to catch your eyes!

Mr. Speaker :—No, no. I treat all alike.

Sardar Nidhan Singh : Sir, I may say that since Ministers wield great influence they can attract any body towards them.

Mr. Speaker : I do not allow the hon. Member to talk like that. He should confine himself to the motion under consideration.

Sardar Nidhan Singh : The major item before us is the procurement of food grains. It is a pity that while foodgrains are procured from the poor people, the land-lords, Jagirdars and the black-marketers afforded are protection. They are allowed to make money at the cost of the poor peasant. Not only this. Even the allotment of land is not being done properly. Whereas tenants and Harijans have been deprived of their lands, the big land-lords and Rajas, Maharajas are in possession of their lands as in the previous regimes. It is a pity that they do not attract you and you have no sympathy for them while those big people got scot free.

Mr. Speaker : All the hon. Members have spoken. Would you like to give some time to the members of Opposition to speak.

Some members of the Treasury Benches : Yes.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi) : Sir, if the object had been only to vote this demand, then my hon. Friends occupying the Treasury Benches who are in a majority could easily do it. But the question is that we have to give our own views and offer constructive criticism, which the Government should welcome.

Now if the Government wanted to remove defects in its administ-

(S. Ajmer Singh)

ration and asked for more money for the purpose, we as representatives of the public would have been ready to go the whole hog with them. Had this demand been for the welfare of the general public, we would have given our whole-hearted support to it. But, I consider that this item has not been put forward in the best interests of the people at large. As a matter of fact, their interests are being ignored in a callous manner. I hope my hon. Friends Sardar Partap Singh Karion and Chaudhri Lahri Singh in particular, and other Ministers in general, remember their promises which, they gave to the villagers. They should bestow their attention to the difference between the provision made in the previous and present Budget, for the betterment of these people. If they have not been able to stand by their promises, they will not be able to serve people in any way. Today's discussion is not confined to the procurement system only. The demand also includes a provision for General Administration and other major Heads. We are prepared to make a larger provision of money provided that this amount is spent for the amelioration of the hard lot of the poor people. But if you need this money simply to purchase cars for the Ministers, then we will not support this. I am constrained to remark that a proper use of money is not being made by the Government. We find that there are seven Ministers at present, and the appointment of the eighth one is under contemplation. When already heavy expenditure is being incurred on the establishment of Ministers, their Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Directors and Heads of Departments and so forth, I fail to see why more money is being made available to be spent on the fat salaries of more officers. Had this sum been provided for the betterment of villagers or the improvement of Panchayats, we would have done so gladly. (*interruptions*). I may tell my hon. Friends that I have thoroughly studied the Budget from end to end. But, what I find is that previously a sum of Rs. 30,00,000/- was provided for improving the lot of villagers in the form of supply of Ammonium Sulphate where as now that provision has been reduced to Rs. 6,00,000/-

Minister for Local Government : On a point of order, Sir, hon. Members while discussing the Budget do not see for what item the money is required. Is it not irrelevant ?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : There is another item of one crore and forty lakhs

Minister for Finance : If I may correct the hon. Member, this is not one crore and forty lacks but one lakh forty thousand.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Again, Sir, we are told that there has been a bumper crop of wheat this year and it is coming to the mandis in abundance. It is not so. The fact is that on account of high cost of living and

for meeting their liabilities of the high cost of production the zamindars are obliged to sell away their produce and the hon. Ministers gloat over the fact that foodgrains are coming in large quantities in the market. Zamindars are also afraid lest prices of foodgrains should fall, as every day talks are going on to this effect and the news appear in the papers. Hence they are placing their produce in the market. The arrival of foodgrains in the market is not due to any successful Grow More Food Campaign and procurement policy of the Government. It has been the result of distress. Nature has also helped them to a certain extent this year for a little more production. But the fact remains that zamindars have to sell it under compelling circumstances. Wheat is procured from district Ludhiana at Rs. 13/- per maund but is supplied to the public by the Government at Rs. 16/- per maund.

Minister for Local Government : This is done to provide wheat throughout the State at the same rate and secure its supply to the whole of it.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Well, Sir, Government can come forward with its arguments to justify its actions. Only Rs. 8 Lakhs have been provided for village Panchayats and the improvement of sanitation in the villages. This is quite insufficient amount. However, the Panchyats collected Rs. 50 lakhs for sanitation and other works, which amount has also been exhausted.

Minister for Development : Wherefrom should we bring the funds ?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : The funds should be collected by nationalising the cinemas and by taxing the cars of the rich people. Full attention should be paid to the welfare of zamindars. No provision has been made in the present Budget for the uplift of cottage industries in the State. For the advancement of big industries, the Government is going to set up an Industrial finance Corporation but it does not seem to do any thing for cottage industries. In this Budget no steps are proposed to be taken for the betterment of the Zamindar community.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (Hindi) : Sir, I would speak almost about the same matters which used to be the theme of the speeches of my hon. Friends, now sitting on the Treasury Benches, who occupied Opposition Benches some years ago. With regard to the conditions now prevalent in district Hissar, it is said that the situation has improved. Sir, in the Budget now before us today, no mention was made of the famine conditions in Hissar when it was put up before our President at Delhi on the 31st March, 1952, for his approval.

Minister for Local Government : What, if it is found to have been mentioned therein ?

Shri Sri Chand . Sir, on 31st March, 1952, the Government had no knowledge of the fact that famine conditions were then prevailing in Hissar district. I do not blame the hon. Ministers for that since they were not in the Cabinet at that time. For that, I hold the Deputy Commissioner and other officers of that district responsible. When the hon. Ministers first visited that place, they were told by these officers that the conditions there were not grave and they felt that there was no need of spending any amount on relief work. Our Ministers came back without any knowledge of the real facts. Then our hon. Ministers had to visit that district again when telegrams were sent to the Government to the effect that a large number of people and cattle of that area were dying of hunger and there was an acute shortage of fodder and foodgrains. This time they went there in numbers.

Sir, the set-up of the Government machinery is similar to that of the past. They depend upon the reports of the Patwaris and Tehsildars. Our Ministers, even then did not care to stay there for sufficiently long period in order to know the real facts. In fact, they did not like to stay there because they were afraid of the scorching winds of that area. They preferred to move to Delhi for the night. They do not know the real facts but they pose to do so.

Minister for Development : I think the hon. Member's source of information is the 'daily 'Partap'.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, even the daily 'Tribune' has reported that the labourers had to work there at the relief works opened by the Government at 4 annas a day. Not only that, the poor fellows were paid their wages after ten to fifteen days work. Further, Sir, some parts of the taccavi loans, which the Government have sanctioned for the population of that area have gone into the pockets of the clerks working there or the Tehsildars.

Minister for Development : Can you point out a single instance ? We have been to Hissar and know the facts. At least it has not come to our notice.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, the Government says that there is no famine in that district because it is afraid of the public clamouring.

For a single cattle farm in that district the Government has made a provision of Rs. 3 lakhs. What about thousands of cattle of the whole district, since the Government has allotted Rs. 62 lakhs only for all

different forms of relief e.g. the concentration camps for the cattle, maintenance of stud bulls, digging of ponds and the opening of spinning centres ? This is too small an amount for such a big task. The cattle are dying in large numbers. Even, if you visit that district now, you will find under each tree three to four cows lying dead.

Another point is with regard to controls. In this connection I would submit that it is a matter of common knowledge that our State is surplus in foodgrains. Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru may be right when he remarked that controls cannot be lifted all at once throughout the country. But what I wish to submit here is that in Punjab, at least the movement of foodgrains within the State should be free. My hon. friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma might be aware of the fact that in our villages sometimes the poor farmers are forced to go out and cultivate lands at considerable distances from their villages due to drought and other circumstances. Now, under the law as it stands it becomes difficult for them to bring their produce to their homes. In Jhajjar tehsil, for instance, the farmers have to suffer a lot of such inconvenience. The scarcity of fodder prevails and the peasants find it difficult to bring any thing from outside. Under such circumstances what can the poor people do but evade the law and indulge in such undesirable practices as smuggling ? The Government is unable to provide any relief to them because the administration at the top is not quite efficient. Our hon. Ministers behave like I. C. S. officers. Whenever an ordinary man goes to see them to explain the grievances of the people they say that they have no time for it. It is my humble submission that urgent and immediate attention should be paid to the sufferings of the poor. The hon. Ministers should go direct to the people and listen to grievances and troubles. They should not rely upon the reports received from the officers only. I don't mean to say that they should not meet and talk to the Deputy Commissioners and other high officers of the district. But my opinion is that the actual state of affairs can be seen only by going round personally and contacting the masses. The officers have a way of their own for looking at such things. They are unable to feel where the shoe pinches. So I would strongly urge upon the hon. Ministers to make a direct contact with the people in the villages.

Mr. Speaker : As the Assembly is to adjourn at 6.30 P. M. it is necessary that the remaining time at our disposal should be utilized in an equitable manner. In the first place, I would like to mention that some time is likely to be taken up for the voting on amendments. Then hon. Sardar Partap Singh has requested to be allowed to speak for about twenty-five minutes and hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh for about half an hour. I think the remaining time may be distributed among the Government party

(Mr. Speaker)

and the opposition party equally. This is because the Opposition has a right to criticise the Government policies and an opportunity should be given to them to attack the Government.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir we do not indulge in mere attacks. We give some useful suggestions also.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, any how, it is possible at present to have at the most six speeches in addition to the speeches of the hon. Ministers. So I think, three hon. Members from opposition side and three from Government Benches can take part in the discussion. After 5.15 P. M. the hon. Ministers will rise to give a reply to what has been said by the hon. Members. Now I call upon the hon. Members from the Opposition Benches to speak. (No one stood up). As none wishes to speak from this side, I call upon the hon. Members from the Government Benches to take this opportunity of giving expression to their views on this matter, as they also have moved cuts to the demand under consideration.

Sardar Wazir Singh : These are bogus cuts.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members should not use such expressions.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Sir, I don't think this word is unparliamentary. Any how, may I request you to kindly give us more time as previously we were not allowed sufficient time to express ourselves.

Mr. Speaker . An hon. Member cannot speak twice under the rules.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (Hindi) : Sir, whatever the hon. Ministers have stated with regard to procurement is correct. However, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulties which poor people have to face. So far as the policy of the Government in this matter is concerned, I do not wish to find fault with it. What I wish to point out here is that unnecessary delay has taken place in putting it into practice. There are certain other shortcomings also. For instance, the big commission agents are allowed to fleece the producers and the consumers. Most of the commission agents are undesirable persons appointed during the British regime who pleased the local officers and served them faithfully. They take most of the profits and are responsible for the prevailing high prices in the markets. I would request the Government to seriously think of removing them so that the poor people may not suffer.

These big commission agents should be completely dispensed with. They have already made huge sums of money and I shall request the hon. Minister to do away with these agencies. They never had any sympathy with the Congress. If the Government accepts this suggestion, it would satisfy a demand of the members of the Opposition also.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Grow More Food Campaign and I hope that the hon. Minister will give sympathetic thought to what I am going to submit. The method of grant of taccavi loans appears to be based on some wrong basis. Taccavi loans are not given in those areas where there is no other means of irrigation except wells. In this manner, the three Tehsils of district Gurgaon, viz, Rewari, Nuh and Gurgaon are deprived of this help. These places are dependent only on wells for irrigation. We have been agitating to get that order modified but have not succeeded.

Minister for Development : Was any such order issued before we assumed office ?

Rao Gajraj Singh : Yes, Sir.

Minister for Development: Then why did the hon. Member not bring it to our notice ?

Rao Gajraj Singh : We grow barley and other crops and have to irrigate our fields by drawing water from wells which are 150 to 200 feet deep. Taccavi loans for sinking tube wells are not given in areas where these are needed most. If the produce of a certain place is increased from one hundred maunds to one hundred and one maunds, it cannot be regarded as any achievement. If there is some increase in production of food grains in Tehsil Sonapat, where canal water is available for irrigation it is not so creditable as it would have been if a similar increase had been brought about in Hissar, Jhajjar or some other such place.

Then, Sir, there is another difficulty to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. The lands of some people are so situated that a part of these are outside the limits of this State. Some poor people who did not possess enough land took other lands on lease and cultivated them. Some such lands are near Tehsil Jhajjar but they are outside the boundary of the Punjab. These people are not permitted to bring their produce from those lands. For the last two months we have been requesting the Deputy Commissioner to grant permission for import of grain in such cases, but he has not acceded to our requests. I shall request the Government to consider this matter sympathetically and permit the persons concerned to bring their produce within this state.

Rai Raghuvir Singh (Seraj) (Hindi) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the conditions in a hilly part of this State. Many of my friends visit that place but they cannot know the condition of the people living there. Many Government departments are functioning there but we have to see if their activities are doing any good to the people. The inhabitants of that place are no doubt Punjabis but their condition is completely different from that of the people inhabiting other parts of the State.

(Rai Raghuvir Singh.)

Its main cause is the complete absence of educational facilities. Nature has endowed this area with plenty of water, rich forests and large quantity of fruits, but still its inhabitants do not get enough food and clothing. Petty farms are surrounded by high walls. Small children have to walk in some cases distances of five miles each way for attending their schools. The hardship suffered by the tender aged children and the anxiety caused to their parents can be well imagined. Moreover, the climate of this place is such that it receives heavy rains in one part of the year and snow in another. Huge stones sometimes come down rolling and the school going children are exposed to great danger. Some parts of this place are such that if they do not receive rain for a few days, the entire crop grown there withers. In other places, the floods wash away the fertile soil and leave behind sandy tracts of land. If the Government is really desirous of bringing these people at par with the other Punjabis, it should constitute a Board consisting of experts to examine the whole matter. Educationists should try to satisfy the educational needs of the people and some experts should survey its forest wealth. This place supplies wood worth lakhs of rupees to other people in the State but its own residents cannot buy even a small quantity of it for building their houses. These difficulties should be removed as early as possible so that the inhabitants of this place may attain the standard of life enjoyed by other people. If that is done, the State as a whole will prosper. At present, even milk is regarded as luxury there. Due to the non-availability of milk, people who go there once do not think of revisiting the place. There are no pastures for cattle in this area. I have referred to all these things in order to convince the Government of the necessity of removing the difficulties of these people.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, we are all very happy that the procurement this year has been very satisfactory. But I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to certain dangerous offshoots of the procurement system. There is in force in this State an Act known as the Pure Seeds Act. According to it, certain areas of land are reserved by the Agriculture Department, over which the Pure Seeds Act is operative. In spite of all this, what is the position today in District Gurgaon? There is no pure seed available there. If the Government has no seed, it should admit that fact. I find that there is a strange alliance between the Procurement Department and the Agriculture Department. While it is the duty of the former to procure as much food as possible, the latter acts in just the opposite direction by distributing pure wheat as pure seed. I grew maize on my land. As every one knows crop competitions are held these days.

I was asked by the officials of the Agriculture Department not to harvest my produce of maize till as a result of crop competition I got my prize. All my crop of maize was eaten by jackals but I am still awaiting my prize. The grain obtained through Procurement Scheme should not be given as seed. Another thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that the work of supervision of the Community Projects is being entrusted to the old bureaucratic type of officers, I mean those belonging to the P. C. S. I think their appointment to such supervisory jobs would serve no useful purpose. I would, therefore, urge that services of persons with suitable qualifications may be secured for this work.

Mr. Speaker : Perhaps the hon. Member does not think it 'suitable' to remain relevant. From procurement he has all at once switched over to the Community Projects.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Sir, I am strictly relevant. What I mean to stress is that the executive and administrative officers who are to be detailed on supervising the execution of Community Projects should not be taken from the P. C. S. since they would not be able to discharge these duties in a satisfactory manner.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South-East) (Hindi): Sir, I want to make a few suggestions with regard to the items that fall under this demand. Whatever amount of money Government demands for the beneficent departments is always granted without any demur by this House. But we cannot agree to vote so much money on the establishment charges of departments like the Buildings and Roads without pointing out that it is not so necessary and desirable to have a top-heavy administration. I find that a sum of Rs. 20,54,390/- has been earmarked for meeting the expenditure in connection with Buildings and Roads establishment. (Voices from Treasury Benches: 'This expenditure does not come under this demand'). Sir, only today I have read in the 'Tribune' that Shri Rajagopalachari, Chief Minister of Madras has called the Public Works Department as his enemy No. 2. On going through the Budget relating to this department, I find myself justified in subscribing to the views of Shri Rajgopalachari. Since partition the staff of this department has increased manifold and so has the expenditure.

Minister for Public Works : It will be better if the hon. Lady Member makes this observation when the Budget is under discussion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, if you compare the present staff of this department with the pre-partition staff you will find that the number of Executive Engineers, S. D. O.'s and Overseers has increased immensely. The

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

Public Health Department is a small department but it has separate Overseers, Executive Engineers and so on. Then, there are separate officers and subordinates for the Electricity Department. I wonder what is the idea behind this multiplicity of officials. Why not have the same staff for Electricity and Public Health Departments? Why should these departments not be amalgamated? Another complaint that I have to make is that after the partition the number of officers has increased out of all proportions to the strength of subordinate staff.

Minister for Public Works : Has it any relevancy to the demand under discussion?

Shrimati Sita Devi : Yes, look up under Head No. 40.

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is it the duty of the hon. Ministers to give a ruling as to whether an hon. Member is speaking relevant or not?

Mr. Speaker : Is it for Captain Ranjit Singh to describe an observation made by a Minister as a ruling?

Shrimati Sita Devi : What I was saying is that the Government should not spend so much money on high officers. On the other hand, promotions should be given to the subordinate officials who have fifteen or twenty years of service to their credit and are still working on the same posts. We have no objection to voting money for the various departments of the Government, but we have a right to insist that the money granted by this House should be properly spent.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (Hindi) : Sir, I have risen to make a few suggestions with regard to the Civil Supplies and Rationing departments. The hon. Minister incharge has stated that the Government is not yet in favour of removal of controls and would like to give the matter further consideration. There is, however, in my opinion a step which the Government can take immediately without fear of any risk. To my mind, derationing of foodgrains in towns situated in the districts which are surplus in food is the need of the moment and the demand of the masses. There is hardly anything that can be said against immediate recourse to this measure. It would reduce Government's liability and save the people living in surplus areas from unnecessary inconvenience and irksome restrictions. We shall not be satisfied until this thing is done.

Secondly, I want to raise my voice against the over-staffing of the district establishment of the Civil Supplies and Foodgrains department. I wonder why two parallel organizations, namely, office of the District Civil Supplies Organizer and the office of the District Food Controller exist side by side in every district, as a result of which there is considerable overlapping and even duplication of work as well as staff. Why does not the Government amalgamate the two offices and spend the money thus saved on the inefficient departments which need more funds? This is in my opinion a good suggestion to effect economy through retrenchment.

Minister for Finance: I have not exactly followed what the hon. Member was suggesting.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : I was referring to the unnecessary expenditure being incurred on maintaining two parallel establishments, consisting of scores of inspectors, clerks and superintendents, namely, the offices of the District Civil Supplies Officer and the District Food Organizer.

Some Members belonging to the Congress party have rightly pointed out the injustice involved in fixing different rates for wheat for different mandis. I give a concrete instance to make my point clear. Mutlada mandi is surrounded by good wheat-producing ilaqa. The price of wheat fixed for this mandi is less than the rate fixed for Panipat by -/12/- a maund. This discrimination between the two mandis results in a great hardship to peasants living in the ilaqa round about Mutlada. They have either to undergo the botheration and expense of taking their yield of wheat for sale to Panipat or be content with a definitely and considerably lower rate. And then this is not a solitary instance of its kind. The inequity implied in this system of variation in prices from one market to the other is manifest and such instances are found in quite a large number.

It will, therefore, appear that there is no uniform principle applied to the fixation of price of wheat in the different mandis. The rates are fixed in an arbitrary way and especially in mandis which are in the neighbourhood of Delhi the procurement price of wheat is higher. In these circumstances, I would request the Government that instead of giving preferential treatment to any particular mandis it should observe a uniform policy in order to avoid hardship to the poor peasants.

Sardar Hari Singh : (Dasuya) (punjabi) : Sir, I would submit that the Government should make earnest efforts to remove all the difficulties which the poor class of people have to face in connection with the Food Procurement Scheme. In this connection I may point out that Mukerian is the biggest centre in the Punjab. Under the present law, as it stands, nobody is permitted to keep much stock of foodgrains with him. In case excess stock is found the people are challaned. Such a situation creates manifold worries and difficulties for the poor peasants. There may be some objection to keeping wheat which is in excess of one's requirements, but a zamindar should at least be allowed to keep stock of foodgrains which may meet his yearly requirements.

Besides this, I may point out to the House that tehsil Una in the Hoshiarpur district has been deprived of the benefits of the Grow More Food Scheme of the Government. The area of land in Thana Anandpur and Nurpur is very fertile. These ilaqas have been linked up with roads and have the necessary irrigation facilities. The hon. Minister for Development should have kept all these factors in view. If the Grow More Food Scheme were enforced in this ilaqa we could double or treble our produce from the land. I would, therefore, point out to the Government that the conditions in tehsil Una are exceptionally favourable to make the Grow More Food scheme a success there.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : (Ludhiana Sadar) (punjabi) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House through you, how the high officers employed under the Food Procurement Scheme act in an arbitrary manner while allowing commission to the Arhtis' Associations. Procurement is usually made through the Pakka Arhtis Associations. This Association generally consists of 8 or 10 members and its number may at the most go up to 15. I may cite an instance in this connection. Sometime back the Central Bank of Ludhiana succeeded in establishing its own agency in one of the Mandis. But it is surprising to find that different rates of commission are allowed to different Associations. Whereas one gets -/8/- annas per maund, the other is allowed -/12/- anna per maund. This matter was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister incharge in order to find out why differential treatment was accorded to different Associations in the matter of payment of commission. But in reply it was pointed out that the Bank which had many shareholders was considered as one individual while in the other case it was treated as an Association. I would, therefore, request the Minister incharge to take steps to remove this invidious distinction.

Shri Teg Ram (Khuian Sarwar) (*Hindi*): Sir, the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies has remarked that the Government has to pay the incidental charges for bringing foodgrains from villages to the mandis. The labourers in the villages who do not produce wheat themselves can get it at cheaper rates in the villages. For example, if wheat is available at Rs. 12/- per maund at Abohar it is available in mandis at Rs. 12/4/- per maund and is sold at Rs. 14/- per maund in the black market. But the difficulty is that the labourer can ill-afford to get it at even Rs. 12/- per maund for his household consumption. Then in the month of November and December he has perforce to purchase wheat at a higher rate of Rs. 18/- or Rs. 20/- per maund. If the Government makes arrangement for opening depots in all the villages then these people can easily get wheat at a controlled price. Wheat which is available at Rs. 12/- per maund is made available to the village people at Rs. 14/- per maund at the ration depots. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should make arrangement for keeping a stock of 500 maunds in every village by purchasing it at Rs. 12/- per maund. Whenever there is shortage the Government should make it available to the poor people at Rs. 12/- per maund. In this way the poor people would be saved the difficulty of getting wheat at the black market rates. In these circumstances, I would request the Government that it should make arrangement for the storage of 500 or 700 maunds of wheat in every village so that it may be made available to the public at a reasonable price.

Minister For Development : (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*punjabi*) Sir, I have listened to the speeches of the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches and I am sorry to say that they have not said anything which may deserve the serious attention of the Government. The way in which they have repeated their arguments shows clearly that they have not been able to understand things rightly. In fact their approach to the subject is one sided irrespective of the fact whether it is right or wrong. They want to see the Government presented in an unfavourable light. We had expected that the Opposition party would change its outlook in the changed circumstances and that it would care more for the objective presentation of facts rather than starting a campaign of slander and vilification against the Government. But what I find is that they are still adhering to the old narrow and worn out conception of making criticism which they used to make some 20 or 30 years ago. My hon. Friends Shri Sri Chand and Sardar Achhar Singh have remarked in their speeches that the officers of the Government took illegal gratification

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while distributing taccavis to the distressed people of Hissar. I do not deny that there are dishonest officers but I can never believe that any officer would stoop so low as to accept illegal gratification from the poor starving/peasants whose famished cattle were dying in their presence (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Members to allow the hon. Minister to proceed with his speech without making any interruptions.

Minister For Development : Sir, I do not find any truth in the allegations that the refugee officers extorted money from the refugee peasants. But on the other hand I can quote instances to show that the Government officers conducted themselves very honestly while distributing taccavis among the people in the famine-stricken areas of Hissar district.

Now, Sir, let me narrate my own personal experience. Sometime back I along with Chaudhri Lahri Singh and the Deputy Commissioner of the District visited three villages in the scarcity area of Hissar district. With a view to verifying whether the taccavi sanctioned by the Government had actually reached the peasants, we called a public meeting of the villagers — about a hundred in number — and inquired of them as to how many of them had received the taccavi loan. It was found that every one of them had received it. We were told that about a sum of Rs. 10,000/- had been given to that village alone in the form of taccavi. At the time of departure I told the people that I had one more question to ask them. They readily agreed to give a true reply. I asked them as to whether there was any one among them who had never told a lie in his life. They pointed to an old man. I asked that old man to take an oath in the name of the sacred cow and state whether he had paid any illegal gratification to any officer with a view to getting a taccavi loan. Then I asked every one present there to take a similar oath and state the truth. The reply that every one gave was that nothing had been paid to any official in the form of illegal gratification. I repeated this thing in two other villages also which along with this village had received the maximum amount of taccavi. I do not deny that some officers are corrupt but this does not mean that those who are engaged in relief work in Hissar district also acted in an objectionable manner. I would invite the hon. Members to quote specific instances, if any, and name the tehsildar, the clerk, the patwari or the Qanungo who has accepted any illegal gratification from the distressed people of the famine-stricken area. They will then see how promptly action is taken against such a corrupt official. I would, however, say that it does not behove them to make baseless allegation

against and call in question the conduct of all Government officials. I, for one, cannot think of an official stooping so low as to extort money from people who are in dire suffering.

The first and the foremost thing that we want to do here is to raise the moral stature of the people by eradicating corruption from all branches of the administration. My brethren over there have pleaded for grant of more taccavi and financial assistance to the people of Hissar. How I wish we had crores of rupees at our disposal to spend on relief works in the famine stricken areas of Hissar. But the difficulty is where to get the requisite funds from? My hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand has stated that not a single penny was provided for Hissar during the President's rule in the State. The Minister for Local Self-Government has already informed him that a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs has been provided for the purpose. Since then lakhs of rupees have been spent in connection with the famine relief work for which the approval of the House is being sought now and Sardar Ujjal Singh, Minister for Finance promises to provide still more funds if and when necessary. The hon. Members will appreciate that when budgetary provision for such emergent expenditure is to be made the money cannot be provided all at once but provision has to be made in instalments as the need arises.

Again, my hon. Friend has complained that we have not made any arrangements for supplying water to many villages in Hissar district. I think that he has made these observations not from personal knowledge but on the basis of mere hearsay. May I ask him if he can name a single village where canal water could reach and we have not made arrangements for it? We have tried our level best to supply water wherever it was possible to do so. Without caring for the clamour of residents of Bhiwani we have stopped the supply of canal water to their gardens in order to save water for villages where it was most needed. In the villages, where canal water could not reach, the Government has even gone to the extent of hiring bullocks and camels to draw water from the wells for the benefit of the people living in those villages.

I am not one of those who believe in mere talking and doing nothing substantial. I have a heart which feels the pains and sufferings of the people and goes out in sympathy to them. It is incorrect to say that we have not given adequate wages to the destitute people whom we employed as labourers with a view to enabling them to earn a living for themselves. My Friends who have levelled this criticism against the Government forget that in times of

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famine, all and sundry have to be provided with living standard wages. We are proud to say that we have been giving them almost standard wages. May I ask my hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand as to how much hay he collected in his tehsil for distribution among the people in the scarcity affected areas? I would not hesitate to praise the laudable work done by the people of Ludhiana district in the matter of collecting hay and sending it to the affected areas. We are also thankful to the people of Rohtak and Gurdaspur districts for coming to the aid of the distressed people of Hissar. These Friends who have criticised Government so vehemently for not adopting adequate relief measures claim to be the followers of Sir Chhotu Ram but their honouring the principles and the preachings of their great Leader are more in the breach than in the observance. They are not caring to send even a handful of hay for their brothers in distress. I was under the impression that on reading about the oncoming of famine in Hissar district, workers belonging to all political parties would, instead of sending observers and deputationists to the affected areas, start taking constructive steps to collect hay for the cattle of the people living in the famine-stricken parts of the district. But this was not to be. They preferred to watch the situation, criticise the Government and do nothing substantial to help relieve the human and animal distress.

Therefore, I think that all the political parties have failed in this important matter. For this work, sincerity and whole-hearted cooperation of all the parties are required. In my opinion Rs. 70 lakhs sanctioned by the Government for this purpose is only a small sum. I wish that aid by the Government could be very much increased. Some members of the Parliament came to Hissar and criticised the help given by this Government to the distressed persons in Hissar. So far as the criticism of the Government aid is concerned, I tell you, Sir, that our Government is anxious to spend every pie for relief purposes which its finances can allow. For myself, if I had crores and crores, I would be willing to spend it for Hissar. But I can spend only what I have. Our Government cannot ignore the miserable plight of the people of Sirsa, Bhiwani and Fatehgargh in that District. But after all the Government has also to meet other expenses from its income. I wish that all of us should surrender our one month's salary for the Hissar Relief Fund.

Sardar Bhag Singh: All members of our party will gladly do that, if other hon. Members of the House are prepared for it

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The hon. Member should better consult his friends before he commits himself. I would suggest to my hon. Friends to arrange to send some cart loads of fodder to Hissar.

The Government is being criticised in the name of cattle wealth. It is easier to criticise than to act. One of my Friends has said that our Government is following the practices of the past. The system which anyone works, should work satisfactorily irrespective of the fact whether it is old or new. When the Government has once chalked out its policy it continues to follow that till something new comes to replace it. One of the hon. Members has said that we have not taken any steps to save the cattle wealth of that area. I want to tell him that our Government has opened eight concentration camps which have a feeding capacity of five thousand cattle. These camps have not yet been filled upto their full capacity. The Government intends to open more camps as soon as these are filled up. Sir, it has also been alleged by another hon. Member that during our tour of that district, we used to leave for Delhi for the night. Such wrong statements are made on the floor of this House merely because these are published in certain newspapers. The hon. Members do not say these things on the basis of their personal knowledge. Sir, Let me tell them that we do not have even the least attraction for Delhi.

Then, Sir, it was really a hard job to arrange for fodder for this area specially when some other States in India, like Saurashtra and Madras were also threatened with famine. By the kind help of the Government of India, we have been able to import fodder from U. P. and Madhya Pradesh in large quantities. This Government has not spared any efforts to get every kind of help from the Government of India and to spend every penny that was available. In our efforts to obtain fodder, the services of S. Datar Singh have been very useful. At every railway station where the wagons of fodder were to stop, we sent an officer in advance in order to avoid delay. Sir, we are determined to check the repetition of the present conditions in Hissar. One of the hon. Members has suggested that Hissar may be included in the area which is to benefit from the Bhakra Project. Sir, I may tell him, that out of 36 lakh acres of land to benefit from Bhakra Project 18 lakh acres will be in Hissar.

Sardar Achhar Singh : I request the hon. Minister, Sir, to declare this area as famine-stricken area.

Minister for Development : The difficulty in doing so, is that if that area is declared a famine-stricken area then we shall have to pay wages to the labourers working at the relief works strictly according to the famine code. The wages prescribed in the famine code are much less than those being paid at present.

An hon. Member : What wages are you paying to the labourers engaged for the digging of ponds ?

Minister for Development : We pay Rs. 1/4/- for digging '10 by 10' and one foot deep. So long as it is a scarcity area, we can pay more wages to the labour.

Thus, Sir, you will find that the allegations made by some of the hon. Members of the Opposition are not based on facts and the criticism made by them is not constructive. I again request the hon. Members of the opposition to cooperate with the Government in overcoming this calamity and not criticise for mere criticism's sake.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) (Punjabi) : Sir, the motion before the House is for the grant of Rs. 4,37,25,830 "on account" to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the period of four months only, in respect of major heads named in the schedule. Some of my hon. Friends have taken the whole of the Budget for discussion in their speeches. I need not reply to all of these points because most of them are off the mark. It is not a general discussion of the Budget. So I would like to confine myself only to two matters, namely, procurement and the conditions prevailing in Hissar. Sardar Partap Singh and Pandit Shri Ram Sharma have fully discussed both of these problems. There are, however, one or two things more to be said and I will avail of this opportunity to throw some light on them. In connection with controls it has been stated that Punjab, being surplus area can easily dispense with controls on food-grains. But in my opinion the matter is not so simple as some of my hon. Friends seem to think. Had it been a question of Punjab only we could have removed the controls. But we have to take into consideration some other States also. It is our duty to provide all possible help to other States, consistent with our own requirements. We have to see that as far as we can we should try to produce more and should also try to feed the people living in other parts of our country. It is for this purpose that we go on with the

controls as they are. We have in this State tried to procure as much foodgrains for the rest of India as we could. The methods of procurement which we adopted here were appreciated by Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru. Only recently a committee, which was constituted to consider matters regarding procurement and to find out ways and means for reducing expenditure on it, gave its opinion that Punjab State had the best scheme of procurement in the country. In spite of this it has been alleged by some of the hon. Members that we are not making any improvements in the situation.

Sir, one of the hon. Members has suggested that we should procure foodgrains through the co-operative societies in the rural areas and abolish the syndicates. I wonder whether the hon. Member is conscious of the difficulties involved in such a procedure. Perhaps he is not aware of the fact that no storage facilities exist in the villages. Where will the co-operative societies keep the procured foodgrains? We cannot ignore the practical difficulties involved in the method suggested by the hon. Member. The present method of procurement is a result of past experience. In it there are 'Kacha Arhtis' and 'Pacca Arhtis'. The 'Kacha Arhtis' deal direct with the Kisans who bring the produce to the market of their own free will. In order that the commission agents may not take excessive profits, we have asked the 'Pacca Arhtis' to form themselves into syndicates from which the Government buys the foodgrains. In this way the commission does not go into the hands of a few big commission agents only. It is, on the other hand, distributed among various commission agents. Some of the hon. Members are of the view that such syndicates should be abolished. But I do not think that there exists any better alternative. The method of procurement which we are, at present, following is of advantage to the Zamindar as well as to the Government. It is not practicable to entrust the work of procurement to co-operative societies.

An hon. Member has stated that the present system of procurement is cruel to the poor peasants. I am surprised to hear such an argument. How can it be cruel? The villagers are not compelled to part with their produce. No force is employed in this behalf. The system is such that foodgrains which are in excess of the needs of the producers are brought by them to the market of their own free will. At other places there is a system of levy but we have refused to enforce it in our State. Our procurement scheme is quite just and reasonable. There is not the least compulsion or trouble involved in it. About one-fourth of the production of foodgrains is procured in this way. This year large quantities of foodgrains are being

[Minister for Finance]

brought to the mandis by the producers of their own accord. This, in my opinion, is due to the fact that the production has increased. I don't think Sardar Ajmer Singh is right in holding the view that this is due to poor Kisans keeping less of the yield with themselves. I can believe that their financial position might have to some extent compelled them to sell their produce but mainly it was due to better crops this year that our procurement has been so good. One of my hon. Friends said that the Government purchased wheat at twelve rupees per maund but sold it at sixteen rupees per maund. I am surprised that my hon. Friend who lives in Ludhiana does not know the price at which wheat is being supplied there. The retail price of wheat at Ludhiana is Rs. 15/1/- per maund. This includes the retailers commission of twelve annas per maund. At other places in district Ludhiana where there is no rationing and wheat is supplied at controlled rate, its price is Rs. 14/8/- per maund. Similarly, one of my hon. Friends said that the Government purchased rice at eight rupees per maund but sold it at the rate of forty rupees. It is a pity that he could not distinguish between rice and paddy. The Government purchases paddy from the market at the rate of eight rupees to twelve rupees per maund. My hon. Friend who confused paddy with rice should have remembered that paddy has to be dried and husked before it is converted into rice. It involves a good deal of expense. Our prices are quite reasonable but whenever it is found possible to reduce them, the Government will lose no time in reducing the prices.

Some hon. Members complained that District Organisers, District Food Controllers and Civil Supplies Officers had been unnecessarily posted at one and the same place. Formerly there used to be one District Organiser in every district. He was the head of office and had two officers under him, one of whom was incharge of Civil Supplies while the other dealt with food. Now their number has been reduced from two to one. There are no Civil Supplies officers in districts where District Organisers have been posted.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Has this system been adopted in all the districts ?

Minister for Finance : Yes. At those places where District Organisers have been posted, there are no Civil Supplies Officers. This has been done everywhere. There is one District Organiser and one District Food Controller in every district. In Kangra there is one District Civil Supplies Officer, but there is no District Food Controller there. In Simla the office of the District Food Controller and the District Organiser have been combined into

one under the name of District Controller of Food and Civil Supplies. There is no separate District Organiser for Simla and as I have submitted earlier there is no District Food Controller at Kangra.

Sardar Wazir Singh : What about Ludhiana ?

Minister for Finance : My colleague, the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies is examining the whole question and if any reduction in expenditure can be effected, he will gladly do so.

Now I wish to say a few words about Hissar. hon. Sardar Partap Singh has already explained the situation in that area and the steps taken by the Government to control it. I do not say that the conditions in Hissar are such as to give no cause for anxiety. The rain in that area a few days back facilitated the sowing of Bajra in some parts. The Government takes pride in saying that its efforts have succeeded in controlling the situation there and this House also can rightly feel proud of it (applause). I do not wish to say anything about the conditions which existed before we assumed office but on the second day of the formation of this Government, we summoned a meeting which was attended among others by the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, the Commissioner, Ambala Division and Sir Datar Singh of the Government of India. The situation prevailing in Hissar was fully discussed at that meeting. The first tour which I made after assuming office was that of district Hissar. I was sorry to hear some of my friends say that the Ministers went only to big towns and did not visit the villages. I wish to tell them that we do not go down from the cool heights of Simla for nothing. We have been touring the affected areas of Hissar from six in the morning up to nine in the night. It was stated in one of the newspapers that I stayed in a bungalow at Hissar and came back after meeting three or four officers. When I went there, I was accompanied by two secretaries of the Congress Committees and a Member of Parliament. We visited a large number of villages and I was pained to see the sufferings of the people. On enquiries we found that nobody had any complaint regarding the distribution of taccavi loans. At a meeting the Tehsildar of Hissar told us that he had distributed rupees three lacs in the form of taccavi out of which Rs. 175,000 had been given to Harijans. Nobody present there contradicted that statement. My hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand said that the Ministers who toured in motor-cars visited only those places which were situated on metalled roads and that they did not care to go into the interior. I want to know from him if he did anything to help the people in their suffering. It was the Govern-

[Minister for Finance]

ment which had to do everything. Eight concentration camps have been opened for feeding five thousand famished cattle. We have received large quantities of fodder and have stopped its further import. I am told that many famished-cattle are still moving about on the roads but it is a pity that the people who shout most in decrying the Government do not cooperate in the task of bringing such cattle to concentration camps. Then it was said that we fed the cattle on grass only and did not supply them gram and flour. Have those who criticise the Government no responsibility in the matter? How many of them contributed even an ounce of grains for this purpose?

Sardar Wazir Singh : District Ludhiana gave maximum help in this connection.

Minister for Finance : I acknowledge that help and wish to express my gratitude to the people of Ludhiana and Ferozepore for supplying large quantities of fodder. Along with this, I wish to thank the proprietors of Gita Press, Bhiwani, who have made arrangements for feeding a number of weak and starving cattle at considerable expense. I have been told in this House that these cattle should be given gram and flour as they could not eat grass. When I visited Hissar last time, I conferred with the Deputy Commissioner and non-officials and decided that if the veterinary doctor advised that some cattle should be fed on gram and flour, these should be readily supplied to them. During my last visit, I conferred with the non-officials and invited their suggestions. They were of the opinion that the total amount sanctioned for taccavi was insufficient. Twenty lakhs of rupees had been sanctioned for that purpose, but on my return I consulted my colleagues and increased that amount by rupees five lakhs, thereby raising it to twenty-five lakhs. (*Applause*).

Minister for Finance : We had opened 20 Spinning Centres to help the people to earn an honest living and we will be prepared to open more if need be. There were no restrictions on admission to these centres. Any needy person could join them freely and earn a living. When a demand was made for opening five more centres it was readily met. As regards the opening of foodgrains depots, we have asked the Deputy Commissioner to send his proposals in this connection and to let us know as to where they should be opened. It is with great regret that I have to point out that the hon. Members belonging to that ilaqa instead of making useful suggestions thought it fit to confine themselves to decrying the actions of the Government and vilifying it. For instance, an hon. Member has remarked that fodder is being distributed at only two places while the fact of the matter is that

there are no less than twenty two distributing centres of fodder and it is being brought from very far off places situated in Madhya Pradesh. A complaint was made that as there were no such centres in the interior of the famine-affected area and people could not undertake a journey of ten to twelve miles along with their animals which were in a very weak state of health, some centres should be opened in the interior also. I may inform the hon. Member that we have asked the Deputy Commissioner to submit his proposal in this regard and we will do the needful.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Sardar Sahib will excuse me if I ask him a question. Will he tell us if there is any centre where the Government has brought fodder directly by its own arrangements ?

Minister for Finance : I am very sorry to hear this remark from the hon. Member. It is the Government who has arranged for wagons. It is the Government who has agreed to meet 1/3 of the freight charges. It is the Government who has appointed contractors to import fodder and again it is the Government who has fixed the sale price of fodder. Still the hon. Member says that the Government has done nothing. If we have done nothing what have they themselves done to relieve the sufferings of their distressed brethren ?

Sardar Chanan Singh : What remuneration do those people get who work in the Spinning Centres ? Is it not a fact that they can earn not more than two annas per diem ?

Minister for Finance : It depends on the quantity of yarn spun by them. The all India Spinners' Association also pays the remuneration on this very basis. Generally the wages allowed for spinning are eight to twelve annas per seer of yarn spun. We are paying them twelve annas to Rs. 1/8/- per seer.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Will the hon. Minister say how much time it takes one to spin one seer of yarn ?

Minister for Finance : It depends upon the spinner.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Is it not a fact that it takes one person four to five days to spin so much yarn, and the daily income of the spinner comes to not more than two annas per diem ?

Minister for Finance : I do not think this needs any reply from me. So far as I know I have not made any mis-statement. Then, Sir, it has been alleged that the scheme of Labour Co-operatives for excavation work has been introduced with no other purpose than that of covering the slackness and inefficiency of the Irrigation Department and their inability to get the work done in time through the contractors.

Captain Ranjit Singh : And also with a view to getting it done at 25% less cost.

Minister for Finance : I think the hon. Member is labouring under a grave misunderstanding. The scheme of Labour Co-operatives has been introduced chiefly with a view to helping the destitute people of the famine stricken areas to earn a living for themselves 95% of the work has been entrusted to them. And then, we are not paying them the wages that are generally paid in times of famine. I am proud to say that we are giving them standard wages, namely, -/10/- for 50 cft. and Rs. 1/4/- for 100 cft. of earth. Never in famine-stricken areas have the people in general been paid such high wages in any part of the country. And, moreover, it is only a part-time job for them. They work for four to five hours i. e. for half a day only. Then wages for women have been fixed at $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the wages fixed for men. In this way we are doing all we can to relieve the miseries and sufferings of the people of Hissar.

Mr. Speaker : I may inform the hon. Members that election of the members of the Public Accounts Committee will take place in the near future. This committee will consist of nine members who will be elected on the basis of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The Secretary of the Assembly will inform the hon. Members about the date when the nomination papers have to be filed and also the date of withdrawal. Then the ballot will take place and the members declared elected on the basis of proportional representation.

I had also promised the hon. Members that microphone will be set up in the Assembly Chamber but I am sorry to say that the Government has not been able to make arrangements in this connection. I hope that at least one microphone will be installed by tomorrow and if so only such members will be able to use it who are occupying seats near the throne.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Demand No. 54-Famine be reduced by Re. 1/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That Demand No. 85-A be reduced by Re. 1/--

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the total amount of Rs. 4,37,25,830 on account of "Vote-on-Account" be reduced by Rs. 10/-

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That Demand No. 54-Famine be reduced by Re. 1/-

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That Demand No. 85-A (Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading) be reduced by Re. 1/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is;—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,37,25,830 be granted 'on account' to the Governor to defray charges that will come in the course of payment during the period of four months beginning on the 1st of April, 1952 in respect of the major heads named in the schedule.

The motion was carried.

1952. *The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday the 17th June,*

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Mr. Speaker: I am

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th June 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4, at 2 p. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, yesterday you had very kindly permitted that supplementaries on Question No. 71* would continue today also. Have I your permission to ask a few supplementary questions ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Well, Sir, there are two lists of publishers to whom the work of publication and sale of text books has been entrusted for the year 1951-52 and 1952-53, one list consisting of 10 names and the other of 21 names. May I know on what grounds were the additional 11 publishers entrusted with the work of publication and sale of text books ?

Minister for Education : Government had received the names of 10 publishers only and so the work was distributed amongst them in two sets.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know on what principle the eligibility for entrusting the work to these 11 publishers was adjudged ?

Minister : The books received were sent for review to several reviewers. The views of the reviewers were assessed by a Committee consisting of the Education Secretary, the Chairman, the Punjab Public Service Commission and a Judge of the High Court. The recommendations of the Committee were approved by the Government and no favour was shown to any publisher.

*Government's reply to Starred Question No. 71 appears in the debate of 16th June 1952.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Was this matter decided before the formation of the Ministry or after it ?

Minister : The decision was arrived at before the formation of the Ministry and I only approved of it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It has been stated that the decision had been taken before the formation of the Ministry. Does it mean that the additional 11 names were selected before the Ministry was formed ?

Minister : This decision was taken during Governor's Rule.

Mr. Speaker : I will not allow the hon. Member any more time to put supplementaries. Next question please.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, I am perfectly within my rights to ask more supplementaries, as I have been supplied with three statements and I have not even finished the first statement.

Mr. Speaker : I have already given my ruling that I will not allow any more supplementaries to be put on this question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Then, Sir, it is most unfair.

Mr. Speaker : You are not permitted to make any remarks on my ruling. Will you withdraw them ? Will you apologise or not ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Where is the question of apologising and for what ?

Mr. Speaker : I ask you to withdraw the words "It is most unfair".

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, I should be allowed to explain.

Mr. Speaker : I ask you to withdraw your words first and then say anything else.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I withdraw with the following submission.

Mr. Speaker : You will have to withdraw your words unreservedly and then you can make a statement.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I withdraw but I wish to point out, Sir, that in the matter of supplementaries no restrictions can be imposed under rules either according to May's Parliamentary Practice or according to other accepted conventions. In this particular case, Sir, there were three statements supplied to me. The statements were not handed over to me at the time when the question was put. The Speaker in the discharge of his duty did the right thing by allowing me to

continue the supplementaries over the next day. Therefore, today I was permitted to ask supplementaries. When I had not even finished with the first statement, the Chair ruled that no more supplementaries could be asked. I submit, Sir, that I shall be within my rights to put supplementary questions on the remaining two statements. By stopping me from putting these supplementary questions, Sir, a fair deal has not been done to me.

Mr. Speaker : You are again saying that a fair deal has not been done to you. What is the sense of withdrawing your earlier words 'It is not fair'. I will not, therefore, allow you to proceed further with your arguments unless you withdraw your words.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, I withdraw my words.

Mr Speaker : Now I allow you to ask supplementaries.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In reply to my starred Question No. 71, Part (d), the Minister for Education has been pleased to furnish me with two statements in which the principles governing the fixation of prices of the text books for the years 1950-51 and 1952 have been given. Will the Minister for Education please explain the differences in the rates of prices as given in Schedules No 1 and 2 and whether the State Government took any steps during the last year to see that the rates in the schedule were really observed in practice in fixing the prices of the text books ?

Minister : I do not know anything of the previous Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The hon. Minister has been pleased to remark that he has no knowledge of the actions of the past Government regarding this matter. Is it not a convention that the Government is a continuous body. It is a separate thing whether the present Ministry may agree to or differ from the policies of the earlier Ministry.

Mr. Speaker : I disallow this supplementary question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In the third schedule, supplied to me, by the Education Minister, it is stated that a total amount of Rs. 72,704-7-9 was paid by the publishers to the Government as royalties. These payments have been received by the Government up to the 30th November 1951. Now may I know from the Education Minister whether full payments have been received up to the end of the last financial year from the various publishers ? Whether any checking of their accounts, the number of books published and the amount received by them was made ?

Minister : I cannot say anything about the previous Government. All I know is that during that regime 160 pages were printed by the publishers for one rupee. Now we have asked them to print 180 pages for one rupee. But this work pertains to Hindi and Punjabi languages. So far as printing in English is concerned we have asked them to print 116 pages instead of 100 pages as was done previously, for one rupee. By doing so we have reduced their profit by 13 per cent.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What other steps have been taken to receive the payments due from the publishers up to the end of the financial year, *i. e.* 31st March 1952 ?

Minister : On the basis of 5 per cent we have received the payments which were due from the publishers.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The rate was fixed by the previous Government. May I know how much profit the publishers derive from it ?

Minister : It is a matter of details. The profit which they used to get in the past has been reduced by 13 per cent.

Shrimati Sita Devi : While fixing this rate the Government must have calculated the amount of profit, which the publishers would get. May I know that ?

Minister : I have already stated that the amount of their profit has been reduced by 13 per cent.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Has the Government taken care to see that as a result of the policy regarding prescription of text books, poor parents should also be benefited to some extent and it may become easier for them to bear the expenses for the education of their children.

Minister : Only those books are prescribed which are approved by the Committee. I am not aware whether the parents are benefited by this or not.

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the hon. Ministers are unable to reply any question relating to the period of their own tenure of office or they are expected to reply to a period previous to that also ?

Mr. Speaker : It is for the Minister to answer a question or not. I cannot force him to make a reply.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : On a point of order, Sir. If you are pleased to permit the hon. Members to ask two or three supplementary questions, then and then alone the object of asking supplementaries will be served, otherwise it will be defeated.

SELECTION OF NEW CAPITAL SITE AT CHANDIGARH.

***33. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) The reasons why Chandigarh was selected for the site of the New Capital ;

(b) The total amount of money spent by the Government on the Capital Project upto 31st December, 1951 ?

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : (a) In this connection, a *brochure explaining the salient points relating to the selection of Chandigarh as the site for the Capital, is laid on the Table for the information of the Members. The following main considerations weighed in making this selection :—

1. Suitability of the soil ;
2. Favourable conditions of water supply and drainage ;
3. Central situation ;
4. Scope for expansion and salubrious climate ;
5. Existence of large scale lime stone deposits and building stone in the neighbourhood ;
6. Location far away from the border ;
7. Comparatively low cost of acquisition of land and thin population of the area affected.

(b) Rs. 1,02,34,000.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that the Capital site for Chandigarh has been selected on account of its being located at a central place. May I know what is his notion regarding a centrally located place ? Is not Ludhiana or Ambala considered a central place ?

Minister : I would ask the hon. Member to read the pamphlet published by the Government on this subject. The point raised by the hon. Member is fully discussed therein.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : But that literature has not been placed on the Table of the House nor has it been supplied to the Members

* Kept in the library.

Minister : It is up to the Secretary of the Legislature to see whether it has been placed on the Table of the House or not. Government did supply the literature for being placed on the Table.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I would like to have the ruling of the Chair whether any literature which is sent to the Speaker or the Assembly office is meant to be placed on the Table of the House ?

Mr. Speaker : If the documents are intended to be laid on the Table of the House, they are laid, irrespective of the fact that they are addressed to me or to the Secretary of the Legislature Secretariat.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Well, Sir, if there be no objection, tomorrow you may be pleased to permit me to put supplementary questions on this question. In the meantime I will go through the pamphlet concerned.

Mr. Speaker : Yes. Tomorrow* the hon. Member will have a right to ask supplementaries on this question.

BORING OF TUBE WELLS AT THE CAPITAL SITE.

***34. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) The number of tube wells so far bored at the Capital site ;
- (b) The volume of water discharged from these wells ?

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : (a) 15 Nos.

(b) 1,80,500 gallons per hour.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Am I to understand, that 1,80,500 gallons of water is the discharge from each tubewell or from all the 15 tubewells ?

Minister : From all the tubewells, as is evident from the reply given to the hon. Member's question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether it is a fact that the discharge of water from each tube well is much less than the required average discharge of 40,000 gallons of an ordinary tube well ?

Minister : The question is not clear.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether it is a fact that the volume of water discharged from each of these tube wells is less than the required average discharge of a tube-well ?

*Supplementaries continued on 25th June, 1952.

Minister : The question is vague and I am not prepared to reply it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether it is not a fact that the average discharge of water of these tube wells is much less than what it should actually be ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir. I want to make a submission that the real object of the Question Hour is that Government should supply the hon. Members with full and complete information on certain matters about which they have given notices of questions. But that purpose cannot be served by simply showing maps or photographs.

Mr. Speaker : It is said that it is easy to take a horse to a pool of water but it is not possible for one to make him drink water. Similarly I can ask the hon. Ministers to answer your questions, but cannot compel them to reply.

Minister for Revenue and Development : Sir, In this connection I wish to say on behalf of my colleagues that we do not keep away any information from the hon. Members. What ever information we have, we are only too glad to place before the House. So there is no question of evasion of reply on the part of the Government. All that I request is, that such supplementary questions should be asked as may arise from the original questions so that we may be able to reply.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Sir, None of, the hon. Members occupying the Treasury Benches should say 'I am not prepared to reply'. They are representatives of the public and they should not talk like that.

Mr. Speaker : You cannot compel anybody to say what you want to say.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : On a point of order, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister not to evade a reply to a question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it for the Chair to decide whether the question is in order, or the Ministers can also exercise that power ?

Mr. Speaker : Ordinarily the Speaker gives his decision, but the Ministers can point out to the Speaker.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, the Chair has been pleased to give a ruling that the supplementary in this case does not arise out of the original question. The convention in the Parliament has been that the

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

Members are entitled to put questions which arise not only from the main question itself but also out of the replies given by the Treasury Benches.

Mr. Speaker : Shall I read out to the hon Member the relevant rule ?

It is like this :

The Speaker shall disallow any supplementary question if, in his opinion, it infringes the rules regarding the subject matter on admissibility of questions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the total number of places where boring operations were tried and the number of places where they failed ?

Minister : Efforts were made to sink tube wells at a number of places but, as I have already stated, we were successful at only fifteen places.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what quantity of water is necessary for the successful working of an ordinary tube well ? Is the quantity of water available at Chandigarh sufficient for the purpose ?

Minister : I do not possess the required information at this moment but I can assure the hon. Members that the quantity of water available at Chandigarh is quite sufficient.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the report of the water experts ready ; if so, may I know its contents ?

Minister : I require a fresh notice for this question.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : The hon. Minister has stated the grounds on which this site has been selected. He has stated in his reply that

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of this question.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Sir, I am going to say that the grounds given

Mr. Speaker : But this question does not arise at all.

Next question please.

— — — —

ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHANDIGARH.

*85. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) The price per acre paid to Landlords whose lands have been acquired by the Government at Chandigarh.
- (b) The average price per acre that is being charged by the Government on the sale of plots at Chandigarh ?

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : (a) The average price per acre paid to the Landlords whose lands have been acquired by Government at Chandigarh is Rs. 1,000 per acre.

- (b) The average price per acre, inclusive of development costs, which is being charged by Government for the sale of residential, commercial and industrial plots at Chandigarh is Rs. 37,590.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that the average price per acre paid to the Landlords is rupees one thousand and the average price per acre inclusive of development costs which is being charged for the plots at present, is rupees thirty seven thousand. May I know the cost of development and the net profit which the Government is going to make out of it ?

Minister : Survey, Miscellaneous and other exploratory charges	...	Lakhs 5.45
Acquisition of land	...	77.55
Cost of road communication such as city roads, footpaths, cycle tracks including the cost of bridges	..	138.67
Drainage and sewerage	...	199.44
Temporary electric supply (for Thermal plant and underground cables only)	...	20.00
Landscaping and Horticulture	...	21.77
Construction of Dams over Sukhna Cho	...	58.00
Railway Siding	..	35.00
Publicity for sale of plots	..	4.00
Contingent charges (proportionate charges for Research Establishment)	...	63.50
Community Buildings and Civil Works	...	240.55
		<hr/> 858.93 <hr/>

[Minister for Public Works]

The Government has not earned any profits and I wish to make it quite clear that the price of Rs. 37,590 per acre does not contain any profit at all.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The State Government charges 37 times the price of an acre of land. Will it not be an act of black-marketing ?

Mr Speaker : Is that a question ? The hon. Member is imputing motives of black-marketing.

Minister for Revenue and Development : Sir, I protest against this remark. We have already stated that not a single pie has been taken as a profit. I think no Member of the House should impute any motives to anybody.

Mr. Speaker : I entirely agree with you in this.

Shri Daulat Ram : Is it not too big a price charged from the displaced persons ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not a question. It is an expression of opinion. The hon. Member can ask a factual question only.

Shri Daulat Ram : It is a clear question, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister has stated that not a single pie has been taken as profit out of it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the cost of Government buildings is to be met out of the profits of the price of the plots to be sold ?

Minister : No, it is wrong.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the compensation to be paid to the poor displaced land owners is the same as is being paid to the big land owners ?

Minister : There should be no difference, however, I can get the hon. Lady Member exact information about it if proper notice of a question is given.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : May I know if the Government has made any provision for helping refugees who wish to purchase plots at Chandigarh ?

Minister : I cannot say off hand as to how much help is being given to them in this respect

Mr. Speaker : This supplementary does not arise. There is no reference to refugees in the main question.

Shri Sri Chand : Are these plots sold by auction or their price has been fixed by the Government ?

Minister : The price has been fixed by the Government.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Have the persons ousted from Chandigarh area represented to the Government that they have been given less price for their lands ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Are those persons whose lands have been acquired by the Government given some preference, if they desire to purchase plots ?

Minister : Yes. They are given preference.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : The Government has stated the total expenditure on development. Has the expenditure per acre been also calculated ?

Minister : That can also be done.

PUNJAB STATE ROAD INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION.

*92. **Shri Babu Dayal :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Punjab State Road Inspectors' Association has, from time to time, submitted memoranda for their confirmation, pay scale revision etc, if so, the action, if any, so far taken by the Government in the matter ?

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : Yes. The matter is under consideration of Government.

Shri Babu Dayal : Has some reply been given to the Association in this connection ?

Minister : As the matter is under consideration, no reply could be sent.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Since when are these memoranda being received and how long will the Government take to arrive at some decision ?

Minister : Such memoranda have been received from time to time even long before partition, but I do not remember the date of the memorandum received last.

PUNJAB STATE PEONS' ASSOCIATION.

*93. **Shri Babu Dayal :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Punjab State Peons' Association has from time to time submitted memoranda to the Government for the increase of their pay and if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Yes. The pay of Chaprasis and Orderlies was last revised from Rs. 15-1-19 to 20- $\frac{1}{2}$ -25 with effect from 1st September 1948. It is regretted, that despite wishes to the contrary, Government have not been able, in view of the difficult financial position and repercussions of such a step on the pay scales of other low paid Government servants, to effect a further upward revision.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did the peons make a demand in their representation that they should be given the same scale of pay as that of the peons employed in the Central Government offices ?

Minister : Yes, that was one of the demands but it could not be accepted as the scale of pay of peons in the Central Government offices is very high. However, their dearness allowance has been increased by Rs. 5 per mensem as stated in my Budget speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that such matters have to be referred to the Central Government. If that is so, how is it that those person who were getting only Rs. 600 per mensem before partition are being paid Rs. 2,600 per mensem now without any reference to the Central Government ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It does arise, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to know how it arises out of the main question. ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that due to financial stringency the peons' salaries could not be raised. How was it that some of the Government servants who were getting Rs. 600 per mensem before the partition were in receipt of Rs. 2,600 per mensem now ? Did the question of financial stringency not arise in their case ?

Mr. Speaker : The question relates to peons only. So this question does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the Government prepared to increase the basic pay of the peons ?

Minister : As I have already submitted, their dearness allowance has been increased by Rs. 5 p. m. The question of revision of their pay scales is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Government prepared to increase the Hill Allowance of peons employed in the Government offices in Simla ?

Minister : This does not arise out of the main question. A separate notice for it is required.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Is our democratic Government prepared to open cheap ration depots for the benefit of peons as has been done by the railway authorities for their employees ?

Minister : This does not arise.

Mr. Speaker : I shall ask the hon. Lady Member to give notice of a resolution if she desires the Government to effect any change of this type.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : I want to know as to what they are doing for these low-paid employees ?

Sardar Chanan Singh : Are the peons and other Government servants drawing less than Rs. 100 P.M. entitled to medical facilities ?

Minister : This does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that the question of increasing the pay of peons has to be referred to the Central Government. May I know why was it not felt necessary to refer the question of increase in the salaries of officers to the same Government ? What is the justification for this distinction ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister has stated that the whole question is being examined by the Government. As the main question relates to peons, the supplementary question asked by the hon. Member does not arise.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN THE STATE.

***102. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of applications received by the Government against the allotment of evacuee land in the State ;

(b) the total number of such applications so far disposed of ;

(c) the approximate date by which the remaining applications are expected to be disposed of ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) A total number of 106442 regular applications for review of allotments were received in the districts of Punjab and Pepsu and at the Headquarters at Jullundur up to 11th November, 1950, the last date fixed for this purpose. About 92197 petitions were received after November, 1950, up to 10th May 1952 :—

(i) for revision of orders passed by Deputy Commissioners ;

(ii) for revision of allotments from minors, widows and Military personnel ;

(iii) from unsatisfied claimants for allotment of land ; and

(iv) on miscellaneous subjects.

(b) 179569.

(c) 31st August 1952.

CANCELLATION OF ALLOTMENTS OF LAND.

***103. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of petitions filed in the High Court against the cancellation of allotments of land by the Rehabilitation Officers in the State up to 31st March 1952 ;

(b) the number of cases in which the High Court set aside the orders of cancellation ;

(c) whether in view of the rulings of the High Court on those allotments the Government has issued any instructions to the Rehabilitation Department ; if so, a copy of such instructions be laid on the Table ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) Ninety-six.

(b) Five.

(c) Government have since instructed all the Deputy Commissioners in the State not to cancel any allotment without complying with the provisions of Section 26 of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act XXXI of 1950. A copy of the instructions issued is placed on the Table.

**PUNJAB GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION.**

No. LRI/1412/LRC, dated 29th April 1952.

To

All the Deputy Commissioners in the State
of the Punjab.

Subject :—Hearing of persons affected before cancelling the allotment.

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference, once again, to the provisions contained in Section 26 of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act XXXI of 1950, which enjoin that no order shall be passed under Section 26.(1) Ibid, revising or modifying any order prejudicial to any person without giving such person a reasonable opportunity of being heard. It has recently come to the notice of the State Government that in some cases the affected parties were not given any opportunity to appear and to be heard before passing orders ousting them from their allotments. It is, therefore, emphasized that whenever any order involving the cancellation or modification of allotment is contemplated, the affected party must be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before any order is passed.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this communication.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) VIKRAM SINGH,
Director Rehabilitation (Rural),
Department of Rehabilitation,
Jullundur.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, I have not received a copy of the instructions.

Finance Minister : I am very sorry to note that. It was supplied with the reply and should have been placed on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can put supplementary questions *to-morrow after he has received the said document.

*Supplementaries asked on 25th June 1952.

X-RAY INSTALLATION IN GURGAON HOSPITAL.

* 94. **Shri Babu Dyal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the amount sanctioned for the installation of the X-Ray apparatus in Gurgaon Hospital ?

Shri Jagat Narain : None.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Would the hon. Minister for Education please state the reasons why no money has been sanctioned for X-Ray apparatus ?

Minister : Efforts will be made to provide money for this purpose in the Budget for the next year.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht. Was any request received from the Civil Surgeon, Gurgaon on the subject ?

Minister : We have no funds for this purpose. When funds are available, necessary provision will be made.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) : Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the murder of two tenants in District Ferozepore through firing by landlords in order to terrorise the tenants for purposes of eviction from their lands and the failure of the Police to give them protection.

Mr. Speaker : When did this incident take place ?

Sardar Chanan Singh : Only yesterday. Moreover, the incident has appeared in the press.

Mr. Speaker : I may tell the House that according to the conventions maintained in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, no adjournment motion can be taken up as long as the discussion on the Budget is carried on. In this connection I am heavily armed with big guns. To cut short I quote a ruling of the late Sir Shahab-ud-Din, the reputed Speaker of the United Punjab Legislative Assembly. He observed that :

This has been our practice and it was followed last year and the year before last and rightly or wrongly a convention has been established that no adjournment motions are taken up during the Budget Session.

Sardar Chanan Singh : But the matter is very urgent and needs the attention of the House and the Government.

Mr. Speaker : I agree but I have no mind to go against the convention, namely, that during the Budget Session adjournment motions are not taken up. The hon. Member will have ample opportunity to discuss this matter during the general discussion of the Budget. He can raise this point in his speech. I, therefore, rule this adjournment motion out of order.

Now I would request the hon. Minister for Finance to move his motion.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. Yesterday I and three other members of my party brought an adjournment motion against you. But we were not afforded any opportunity to express our view point.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow you to do that. Yesterday I told you that I had a right to explain my position but you had not. Unless you can displace me from this Chair, I am reluctant to relegate that right to you.

THE PUNJAB APPROPRIATION (SECOND VOTE
ON ACCOUNT) BILL.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill 1952.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill, 1952, be taken into consideration at .

I think after the speeches that were delivered yesterday, I need not make any speech on this occasion. I would, therefore, simply commend this motion to the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill, 1952, be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (Punjabi) : Sir, first of all I want to know as to whether this money in respect of which this Appropriation Bill has been brought before the House is included in the main Budget or not.

Minister for Finance : Yes, it is included in the Budget for 1952-53.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Secondly, I am anxious to know as to whether acceptance of money from America for starting Community Project Extension Training Centres under Ford Foundation would not mean an invitation to the foreigners to dominate over our country's economy and pave the way for their economic imperialism. Are we not in this way betraying our country ? I am constrained to remark that while the British had established their sway in this country with the help of the sword, the American are doing it with their money.

Minister for Local Government : Sir, is he reading from a statement ?

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Sir, it is a pity that we are already allowing unduly large concessions to the American firms, in the matter of utilization of fisheries, internal navigation, anti-locusts operations, industrialization, etc. Are we not satisfied with having permitted them to survey and prepare maps of every inch of our land on one pretext or the other ? When shall we be able to do things without the aid of this 'agency' ? How much longer shall we allow them to spread their tentacles over our country ?

Mr. Speaker : I find that the hon. Member has not been able to understand properly as to what is under discussion ? Now the question is whether this Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration or not. The discussion on it will be made at a later stage.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : This is the first reading of the Bill and a member can discuss it.

Mr. Speaker : It will be considered clause by clause later on but at this stage if any member wishes to speak he can do so.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : (Rohtak City) (*Hindi*): Sir, six Community Projects will be set up in the Punjab, in Batala, Nawanshehr, Jagadhri and Sonapat including the development block in Nilokheri and Faridabad. At these six places the Community Development programme will be carried and this matter is under discussion in order to pass the Appropriation Bill. In this connection, I may submit that there will be some contribution from the Government of India for implementation of these projects. Some expenditure will be shared by this Government while the contribution of the Government of U. S. A. will amount to 50 million dollars. Now the question arises on what conditions this gigantic financial assistance has been given to us by America. The criticism of my hon. Friends would

have carried weight if any strings had been attached to this financial assistance. Moreover, I would certainly have appreciated the arguments of my hon. Friend over there if there had been any likelihood of outside interference in our economic, political or cultural development. But they are unnecessarily smelling a rat and becoming unduly apprehensive of Government's embarking upon such a scheme. We all know that our State is in the grip of financial difficulties and if we can bring about development in the field of education and industry with foreign aid, we should certainly welcome the plan of Community Projects. I would ask the Minister incharge to make an endeavour to get the co-operation of the people for implementing and making the scheme a success. I am of the opinion that this scheme cannot fructify unless there is an active and willing co-operation of the public which is not much in evidence at present. Each project in a tehsil will run with the help of Government Officers for a period of 3 years and then afterwards everything will have to be done by the people themselves. Now there are two non-official institutions, namely, Panchayats and Co-operative Societies which can do a lot to make these projects successful. Their help and co-operation can be of immense help and can produce far reaching results. But it is often observed that these Co-operative Societies do not make earnest efforts and are not enthusiastic enough to make a vigorous drive in this direction. In fact their activities remain confined only to paper. The attitude of Panchayats is also unfortunately similar to that of the Co-operative Societies. They also do not press forward any such programmes energetically. Moreover, the corporate life of the Panchayats is also full of dissensions and mutual wranglings. Under these circumstances, these institutions cannot contribute effectively to the success of these projects unless we make efforts to revitalise them. This is precisely what our Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru has always maintained and sought to achieve. He has always laid emphasis on the fact that we should agree to work together within the Commonwealth and promote the common good rather than live in isolation. The success of these projects can only be achieved if these institutions unequivocally pledge themselves to render all possible help in this direction. If these organisations are reluctant to make their best endeavour or fail to offer their willing co operation for the accomplishment of this task, then naturally the result would be that the Government's experiment would fail and the enormous sum which is going to be spent on each project will go waste. In this connection it may be stated that the Planning Commission had also provided six lakhs of rupees last year but the Government did not evince much interest and out of that provi-

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

sion a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs only was spent. It is, therefore, necessary that Government should appoint the right type of officers who should work with a missionary zeal to make this scheme a success. This enterprise, if successful, will certainly infuse a new life in the Punjab and in case it fails there will be no prospect of getting such an aid in the future. It is a pity that some of the hon. Members have not appreciated this development scheme but instead have expressed their misgivings and apprehensions about it. I would only say that they look at everything through jaundiced eyes.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (Hindi): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister incharge one or two things in connection with the Food Procurement Scheme which is at present under discussion before the House. The administrative machinery of the Government for the procurement of foodgrains lacks foresight because the poor people have to face great difficulties in this direction. It is recognised on all hands that poor people are generally ever ready to make all sacrifices for the good of the country. They are forgetful of their own self interests and have got great love for their country. They will never grudge any suffering if it can result in the good of the country. But Government sometimes commits mistakes which put these people to great hardships and it is because of this fact that they begin to entertain repulsive feelings against the Government.

Now there are certain obnoxious features of the Foodgrains Procurement Scheme which are very vexing and irksome for the public in general. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to these features. I represent the Mukerian Constituency, which is predominantly a rice producing area. But there are certain parts of this tehsil where the land is unproductive and the residents have to go to the canal irrigated areas to earn their living by working as agricultural labourers. I know of three or four cases in which such people were put to unnecessary inconvenience and harassment by the Government officials last year when they were carrying home a load of foodgrains that they had received in lieu of their wages for having worked in the fields. It is extremely regrettable that instead of permitting them to take home a small quantity of foodgrains for their own consumption, they were harassed and kept in the lock-up for quite a number of days for no fault of theirs. All this happened

because the procurement policy of the Government is defective and lacks in farsightedness and wisdom.

Then. Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the agricultural labourers are now permitted to carry home on their heads at any one time a load up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of foodgrains out of the quantity received by them as remuneration for their work on the fields. This is all right. But I wonder why the agricultural labourer should not be allowed to carry it on his horse, mule or donkey and why this permission should be given only if he carries a load on his head. It is quite obvious that the Government is out to put the people to unnecessary inconvenience

Now I come to the problem of controls which is of a vital importance to the people. I feel that any decision by the Government about their discontinuance must be taken after a very careful appraisal of the present situation and the possible consequences resulting therefrom. Some hon. Friends seem to be advocating that since controls have been abolished in Madras they should be abolished in this State as well. I would request the Government not to take any hasty decision in this matter or else we may have the same sad experience that befell our lot some years back when we had launched on a policy of decontrol. I think nobody would like to have that experience repeated. The conditions here in this State are not necessarily analogous to those obtaining in Madras. Besides, we, the Punjabis, have already earned a bad name for imitating others blindly. If, in this matter also, we thoughtlessly take any step which we may have to retrace later on, I am afraid, it will not redound to our credit. Whatever step we have to take in this matter must be well thought out and fully considered. But to tone down the severity of the controls, the Government must do its level best to make the operations of controls as efficient as possible by removing all loopholes of which the officials take advantage and indulge in corrupt practices and harass the public. Yesterday, the hon. Minister incharge of the Department was pleased to remark that maximum possible facilities were being given to the people. In my opinion those facilities are insufficient and do not give a full satisfaction to the people. If all-out efforts are not made immediately for the removal of the legitimate grievances of the people, then the Government will turn its supporters into its opponents and would lose their confidence and sympathy. The

[Shri Rala Ram]

main objection to the continuance of the controls is that the means, procedure and rules adopted to enforce them are not free from defects and loopholes and there is always a scope for corruption in them. Consequently the people are put to unnecessary trouble and botheration.

In this connection, I cite another instance. There are nine rice mills in Mukerian. But the residents of this place are compelled to take their paddy for husking purposes to places which are at a distance of five to nine miles from there. This action shows that the rules of this Department are such as unduly entail hardship and botheration to the people. I would, therefore, again urge upon the Government that such irksome restrictions should be done away with and all reasonable facilities be provided to the people so that the controls may not become obnoxious and bring a bad name to Government.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Punjabi): Sir, first thing that I want to know about the Community Projects is this. What are the sources from which we are going to get funds for them and under what conditions ?

An hon. Member : From America.

An hon. Member : No, from Russia.

Sardar Chanan Singh ; Let my friends occupying the Treasury Benches themselves say whether the funds will be obtained from America or Russia. Well, Sir, we are told that these Community Projects will turn our Punjab into a paradise. But they forget that this experiment is already being tried in Uttar Pradesh and I would like to tell them what their own beloved paper "Harijan" says about its working in that State. According to this paper, 90 per cent of the funds allotted for these Projects go to meet the salaries of the officials appointed to supervise the execution of the Projects. This means that exactly the same thing is going to happen here also. As a matter of fact this has already happened in the case of the execution of Capital Project at Chandigarh. The whole money is going into the pockets of the administrative personnel and officers. The people, for whose benefit these projects are intended to be started, are leading a life of penury and the Government officers appointed to execute them are living like rulers. ●

An hon. Member : Are you living a better life ?

Sardar Chanan Singh : That privilege is yours.

An hon. Member : We enjoy this privilege better than you.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Like Chiang-kai-Shek, you have also begun to love American dollars, American Engineers and American wheat and so on. You are thus allowing American finances to penetrate your country and pave the way for their bases being built here. You have seen the fate of Chiang-kai-Shek and you are bound to go that way if you fail to pay heed to my timely warning.

I may add that offers of help were very much liked by Chiang-Kai-Shek. The machinery manufactured in America was also most welcomed in China. But I would sound a note of warning to my hon. Friends to beware of the results of that American help. It is common knowledge that the results were not favourable in China. Now America wants to keep a hold on our country also. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker : Please do not interrupt the hon. Member.

Sardar Chanan Singh : - Sir can the hon. Members sitting on the Treasury Benches say where from the money that is proposed to be spent on these community projects is to come? Well, Sir, what I wanted to impress upon the hon. Members was that we should keep this fact before us as to how America fared in China. It is a well known fact, Sir, that China could not prosper with the help of America. All the American plans like the Truman Plan, etc., have same ulterior motives behind them. These are not meant simply to make the country prosperous. As a matter of fact, their object is to make the foundations of American imperialism deep and strong. I submit that although the rule of the British has ended yet the imperialism is still there. So these community projects are not intended merely to bring about the betterment of this country.

Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat (Bhiwani) (Hindi) : Sir, at the very outset, I would like to thank the Ministry for the necessary steps taken by it with a view to affording relief to the scarcity areas of Hissar. But I want to draw its attention to the fact that the taccavi loans granted by the Government are absolutely inadequate. Even the officers deputed by it for the distribution of these loans hold the same opinion. Now, Sir, if you just consider, the price of an ordinary bullock you will find that it varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. So when a taccavi loan of Rs. 150 is given to an individual who has already been adversely affected by the

[Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat]

famine, it does not help him even to purchase a bullock for which it has been specifically advanced to him.

The second point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is this. Though Government has done much to alleviate the sufferings of people of Hissar during the present famine which was a natural calamity, yet there is every likelihood of its being repeated any time when the monsoon again fails. It goes without saying that the rains generally fail there. I, therefore, request the hon. Ministers through you, Sir, that Government should adopt such measures as may permanently remove the chances or recurrence of famine in Hissar. To achieve this end, I suggest that some arrangements be made to irrigate his area by canal water and where it is not possible, tube wells may be sunk. I am constrained to remark that in this Budget no provision has been made for ridding the affected area from the spectre of famine for all time to come either by digging of a canal or by sinking of tube wells.

Shri Daulat Ram (Kaithal) (Hindi) : Sir, the Community Project Scheme is one of the biggest schemes of the Government which is now being discussed in this House. The Government has selected such places for the starting of these projects which are economically and educationally very backward. I suggest to the Government to include those places in the scheme as well which are situated quite out of the way and at far off distances in the State. In other words, in selecting places for the execution of these schemes, preference should be given to far off rural areas over areas near towns. The places already selected for these projects are situated near the towns and are comparatively less backward.

Then, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government particularly to the backward areas of Tehsil Kaithal and Sub-Tehsil Ghollasar. The area of Ghollasar is already notorious for burglaries. There are no proper roads in these areas. Not only this. Proper arrangement for imparting education and for providing medical aid are conspicuous by their absence. There is no middle school in this area although there are some primary schools. References have been made in this House, by some hon. Members to the conditions prevailing in the districts of Kangra and Hissar but I submit, Sir, that no comparison can be made between those districts and these tehsils. The latter is far behind the former in the matter of social and economic progress. These community projects

will not be able to serve any useful purpose, if these areas are neglected by the Government. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to kindly include this Sub-Tehsil in the community project scheme so that it may also be properly developed.

Moreover, Sir, this Sub-Tehsil, is suffering from shortage of fodder and the people of this area are being confronted with scarcity conditions. I would request the Government to adopt necessary measures at the earliest possible time so that the threatened calamity may be averted.

Sardar Partap Singh (Rupar) (Punjabi) : Sir, I have gone through the Budget, but I feel that the amount earmarked for Education is quite insufficient.

Minister for Finance : Education Department is not under discussion today.

Sardar Partap Singh : My submission is that the Government should have liberally made a provision for important departments. Education is one of such departments. It is argued that the Government has not got sufficient funds. I would like to submit that savings can be effected in many ways. For instance, there is no need for the Deputy Ministers who, it is alleged are going to be appointed soon by the Government. The amount thus saved can be utilized for the dissemination of education in the State.

Minister for Finance : But is Education Department under discussion ?

Sardar Partap Singh : What I mean to submit is that there should be no waste of public funds. In the United Punjab of twenty-nine districts we had only five Ministers but now in a small State of twelve districts we have a team of eight Ministers. Is it not a waste of public funds ? I would request the Government to stop this wastage and spend money in a better way. With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri Balwant Rai Tayal (Hissar City) (Hindi) : Sir, I wish to say something with regard to the funds provided for meeting the scarcity conditions prevailing in the district of Hissar. It is a matter for gratification that ever since the formation of the present Ministry, the hon. Ministers have been touring the affected area and doing whatever they could by way of providing relief to the suffering people. Now if in spite of their best efforts they have not been able to cope with the situation, it is because the conditions prevailing there have gone beyond their control.

[Shri Balwant Rai Tayal]

However, I hope that increased efforts will be made to grapple with the situation successfully. Then there are certain matters which call for greater attention on the part of the Government. For instance, I would like to point out that the sum of rupees one hundred and fifty which has been sanctioned for taccavi loans for the purchase of oxen is inadequate for the purpose. It should be increased. Another thing to which the attention of the Government needs to be drawn concerns the community projects. According to this scheme a unit of three hundred villages is to be taken up for development purposes. Is it not possible to expedite the scheme and to include a larger area in the schemes for development? In my opinion efforts should be made to make this scheme a success in the shortest possible period of time so that the standard of living of the people in rural areas may be improved at an early date. With these observations, I resume my seat.

Shri Bhagat Ram (Haripur) (Hindi): Sir, the Bill now before the House contains an item of expenditure on community projects. I wish to make a few submissions about it. So far as the question of principle is concerned, it has been generally recognised and the Indian Constitution itself lays down in unambiguous terms that the development of backward classes and areas would receive a special consideration at the hands of the Government. So far the people in backward areas have been anxiously waiting for the day when the promises made to them would be fulfilled. They have been cherishing high hopes about development schemes of this nature. But to their disappointment they find that they are being neglected and relegated to the back ground. It is simply surprising that in the scheme for community projects, backward areas like Kangra should have been ignored altogether. Lamé excuses like the lack of irrigation facilities have been put forth to justify their non-inclusion in the scheme. I would strongly urge upon the Government the necessity of giving priority to such backward areas in the matter of development. They should not be ignored because the Constitution enjoins upon the Government the duty of paying special attention towards them. Chapter IV of the Constitution lays down the directive principles of State policy and provides that such classes and areas should receive the special attention of the Government. It is, therefore, the constitutional right of the people of such areas and if it is denied to them it would mean going against the spirit of the fundamental laws of the land. I

am surprised to find that when the Ministers sat down to decide this matter they altogether ignored the claims of backward areas.

Minister for Irrigation : This decision was arrived at before we assumed office.

Shri Bhagat Ram : It may be so, but I would request the hon. Ministers to pay special attention towards the backward areas in future. There are three or four such districts in our State and if they are not properly looked after, I am sure, they will begin to think that after all the independence which was achieved after so many sacrifices has not brought in its wake any relief to them. I hope the Government will give full consideration to the necessity of redressing the grievances of the backward areas.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (Hindi) : Sir, on seeing my hon. Friends sitting opposite I am reminded of the words of the British Prime Minister Disraeli who finding Queen Victoria in the House of Commons, remarked, "I see a stranger in the House".

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should avoid the use of such expressions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I am compelled to say so because find here certain gentlemen who, though they call India as their motherland, look to Russia for inspiration. They are suffering from an Anglo-American phobia. Whenever they discuss the Community Projects, their criticism is directed against American aid in this matter.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I know the advantages of this scheme ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I can only say that the kettle should not call the pot black. Those who cannot think independently should not indulge in criticism of others. Only the other day when I was having my breakfast I asked the servant to tell me whether the milkman had mixed water with milk or milk with water. The servant replied, "Kindly let me go and ask the milkman and then I will tell you". Similar is the state of mind of my hon. Friends. Whatever they have to say they bring the material for it from thousands of miles away. They have nothing original of their own. May I know what business have such people to criticise us ? As a matter of fact, it does not lie with them to suggest that the American aid, we receive, is detrimental to the interests of this

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

country. I am of the view that there is no harm in getting aid, from whatever quarter it comes for the purpose of developing our country. Of course, it is improper to do so for the purpose of loot and murder and for continuing a policy which goes against the interests of the country.

Then, Sir, our Prime Minister has declared on many an occasion that no strings are attached to the aid which we are getting from foreign countries. My hon. Friends over there are in the habit of repeating that our country is coming under American domination. I do not know how to make them understand that they are labouring under a misapprehension. If they offer any constructive suggestions, we will welcome and support them. If America, for whom some of my hon. Friends have no soft corner, offers us some help, they should not put obstacles in the way. Those who have the interest of the people at heart should support these projects, which are meant for the benefit of the entire public.

Minister for Public Works : Sir, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) Punjabi : Sir, I have not to say much.....

Shri Sri Chand : On a point or order, Sir. Can the hon. Minister speak after the closure has been moved and carried? It was decided that no more speeches would be allowed?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister has got the right of reply.

Minister for Finance : I have not to say much as most of the things were discussed yesterday. Some hon. Members referred to community projects in the course of their speeches today; and I wish to say a few words with regard to this scheme. This question was raised by those hon. Members to whom the very name of America is like a red rag to a bull. The crying need of the hour is that we should bring about the maximum possible progress in the rural sphere and should enthuse the villagers with zeal for carrying on the schemes which may lead them to prosperity. It is not intended to achieve this object with the aid of officers from outside. The villagers will be trained to do everything

for their own uplift. An experiment of this kind was made at Etawah. I do not know on what information my hon. Friends sitting over there based their opinions. But it has been stated in the 'Eastern Economist,' whose views always carry weight, that under this scheme the production at Etawah has increased by forty-six per cent during the last three years. The scheme of community projects which is going to be worked in the Punjab is based on the results of experiment carried out at Etawah. These projects are not confined to this State. There will be about fifty or sixty centres in the whole of India. In addition to the four projects at Batala, Nawanshahr, Jagadhri and Sonapat it has been informally agreed that 100 villages around Nilokheri and 200 villages near Faridabad will also be developed. The total expenditure for four schemes will be about Rs. 260 lakhs. Out of this we have to provide Rs. 1,69,75,000.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : The hon. Minister has not mentioned Tehsil Ballabgarh as one of the areas to be covered by these projects.

Minister for Finance : The provision made in the Budget relates to four projects only. As I have already stated 100 villages near Nilokheri in District Karnal and 200 villages of Tehsil Ballabgarh, which are around Faridabad, have been informally agreed to be included in the development scheme. In this connection I may point out that at a meeting of the commissioners, our Prime Minister declared that he would judge the failure or success of the scheme from the amount of enthusiasm produced among the villagers for carrying on the work. We have undertaken this work in that spirit. If we fail to create the necessary zeal in the minds of the rural people, we shall not regard ourselves successful in this work. About seventy per cent of the total amount will be spent on the improvement of irrigation schemes. There cannot be a better and more useful work than this. In addition to the supply of improved irrigation facilities, roads, hospitals and educational institutions are to be provided for the rural people. We have to train teachers for undertaking this work. All those things require money. Training centres have been started under the Ford Foundation, because proper execution of this work requires trained officers who understand the needs and difficulties of the people. They will have to create enthusiasm among the rural people. It is obvious that crores of rupees will be spent on this scheme. The four main centres and two additional centres are being started as an experimental measure. If they prove successful, the scheme will be extended to the whole of the State. Some hon. Members asked why these

[Minister for Finance]

four particular tehsils had been chosen. I wish to inform them that at first this experiment was tried at Etawah. We want to try it at these four places first. When the necessary awakening among the people has been brought about, we will extend the scheme to other parts of the State. If we fail in the case of these four projects, the question of their extension to other places will not arise. I may assure the House that we are not favouring any particular area. My hon. Friends ought to feel happy that we are going to spend Rs. 169 lakhs on such a useful work. It is intended to bring about progress in the State. Some of my hon. Friends do not like it merely because America's name is connected with this scheme.

Mr. Speaker : Question is.

That the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill, 1952, be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved --

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Chaudhri Maru Singh Malik (Sampla) (Hindi) : Sir, by bringing this Bill before the House the Government wants to appropriate the sum of Rs. 4,37,25,830 the demand in respect of which has already been voted by this House. I find that a sum of Rs. 10,17,800 only has been provided for relief operations in connection with the Hissar famine. This amount is the measure of our Government's sympathy for the famine sufferers of Hissar. Lakhs of cattle head have perished, so many human beings have died of starvation but the Government has only now been roused from its slumber and all that it is doing is to sanction this paltry sum of Rs. 10 lakhs. (*Voices : Money has already been spent.*) This is a clear proof of Government's sincerity for the sufferers. Referring to Chaudhri Sri Chand, the Minister for Development has remarked that the leader of the Zimindara party had not cared to send a single cart-load of hay for distribution in the famine-stricken areas of Hissar. I ask him if Chaudhri Sri Chand has not done anything to relieve the suffering of famine-affected people, what has his Government done in this behalf? Many months

before the famine actually overtook Hissar, signs of its coming were not lacking but no Government officer posted at Hissar, it appears, cared to apprise the Government of the impending danger. Had it been kept informed of the deteriorating situation in Hissar, it might have taken steps to stave off the famine and thus lakhs of cattle would have been saved from destruction and human beings from untold suffering and misery. But this was not to be. If the attitude of Government officers continues to be like this, there is no knowing if the same fate will not sooner or later overtake Rohtak also.

A few words about community projects and I have finished. In regard to accepting financial assistance from America in this matter, the Prime Minister of our country has been quoted to the effect that such assistance will not bind us to do anything for Americans in return for it or in other words no political or other strings are attached to it. This assurance is all right but may I ask, if something is given in charity, doesn't the beneficiary at least feel grateful for it? So if we feel grateful to America for their assistance, shall we not tend to toe their line in matters relating to major policies out of sheer gratitude for their assistance. Will not the acceptance of this aid from America create a feeling of subservience in our minds?

Sardar Shamsheer Singh (Ludhiana Sadar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, there cannot be two opinions on the utility and importance of the scheme of community projects for this State. Verily, they will help to awaken the rural people to the need and possibilities of co-operative effort for raising their standard of living. However, Sir, I have to point out with regret that the choice of venues of these projects is not a happy one. Instead of earmarking some central places for development, areas nearer the border have been selected for this purpose. I feel that 'bet' ilaqa of Ludhiana District is the most suitable area for starting such projects since this is the least developed part of the State lacking in roads, schools and hospitals alike.

As regards accepting foreign assistance in this matter, I would not mind in the least whether it comes from America or any other country provided no strings are attached to it. (*Cheers*) We are prepared to accept it even from Russia. (*Renewed Cheers.*)

Sardar Achhar Singh (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, in his speech delivered yesterday the hon. Minister had given vent to two complaints

[Sardar Achhar Singh]

against the opposition parties, firstly that their criticism was not constructive and secondly that these parties themselves had done nothing practical to help the famine sufferers. As for himself he preferred to make a sentimental appeal only depending upon his knowledge of psychology which he acquired along with me as a class-mate. He was content with saying only this—how I wish I could do this, how I desire I could do that. Then he pointed towards his heart going out in sympathy for the poor victims. This is all that he had to say.

Well, Sir, I placed before the Government ten suggestions in which I urged that it was of no avail to adopt temporary measures. The Government should adopt effective preventive measures to avert the recurrence of famine in the Hissar District. My first suggestion was that as this district had fallen a victim to famine it should be declared as a famine-stricken area. The Government should come forward with all its resources to give relief to the distressed and needy. My hon. Friend the Minister for Development remarked in his speech that he personally visited Hissar District and made enquiries from the people as to whether they had received taccavi loans and all of them said on oath in his presence that they had received them. In this connection I would submit that he can hardly realise that those people with whom he came in contact would not dare say in his presence that they had not received the taccavis. In fact our hon. Ministers usually ascertain these facts on the telephone and without diving deep into the facts they are led to place full reliance on the reports of the district authorities. I can vouchsafe the fact that the officers of the Government took illegal gratification from the poor peasants. I have received reports to this effect as our party people also work in that area.

Minister for Development : I would ask the hon. Member to produce any man before me who can say that he did not get taccavi.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, as soon as this Government came into power it took one good step : that it set up a Relief Committee in that area. But at the same time the Communist Party is also proud of the fact that it has been sending fodder in the famine affected area.

Minister for Finance : May I know from the hon. Member as to how much fodder was sent to the famine-stricken area ?

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Minister not to interrupt the hon. Member.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, whenever the Government is asked to release ample funds to give relief to the distressed people of Hissar it conveniently expresses its helplessness and takes shelter behind the oft-quoted plea of inadequacy of finance. But I ask the Government wherefrom this money comes when the number of Ministers is increased from 7 to 8 or at the time when the appointment of Deputy Ministers will be made. I want to tell the Government that if it agrees to reduce the number of Ministers from 8 to 3 then I am prepared to forego my compensatory allowance for all times so that the amount thus saved may be utilised in giving relief to the distressed people of Hissar. So far as the scheme of Community Projects is concerned, I may say that the financial aid given by the U. S. A. to India on this account has its own implications.

Mr. Speaker : I may tell the hon. Member that the policy of the Government of India cannot be discussed here.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, the Ford Foundation must have some underlying motive of its own in advancing money to India.

Mr. Speaker : I would again draw the attention of the hon. Member that it is the Government of India which has taken this financial aid from the Ford Foundation of America and as such the policy of the Government of India cannot be discussed on the floor of this House.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, I am saying so because that money is going to be spent in the Punjab. I am afraid that India will be tied to the apron strings of U. S. A. I may frankly tell the Government of India that America by giving this aid to us is trying to catch the imagination of our people and make propaganda for herself here. So this aid of U. S. A. should not blind us to these facts. (Cries of Order, order.)

Mr. Speaker : There is no question of America's awakening (Jagriti) but our own people would be benefited by the proposed development projects.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, by the acceptance of this aid we shall be tied down and enslaved to U. S. A. and be at the beck and call of the Ford Foundation of America.

Mr. Speaker : I have already pointed out to the hon. Members that the Government of India has foreign relations with U. S. A. Such affairs cannot be discussed in this Assembly. I have already given sufficient latitude to the hon. Member.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, I am discussing this as this item of expenditure is included in our Budget. I would, therefore, warn the Government that keeping in view the example of U. S. A.'s aid to China and Chiang in Formosa we should keep ourselves ready to be transported to Andaman Islands.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (Hindi) : Sir, the hon. Minister for Finance has remarked that the Government could not spare ample funds for the people in the famine-stricken area because it involved a heavy financial burden on the Government's exchequer. This shows that he has conveniently ignored the hardships and mounting distress of those people and is not fully alive to the need of giving them relief. It is manifestly unjust that the Government should consider the appropriateness of sparing funds if there be need for appointing more Ministers and their Deputies but should be stingy in the allocation of funds to mitigate the miseries and sufferings of starving people. In fact the exigency of the situation demanded that the hon. Minister should have gone to the length of contributing his own salary in sympathy for those people who were being tormented by the pangs of hunger and had nothing with them to eat. I even today ask the hon. Minister to contribute his own salary in this noble cause of helping the suffering humanity and in case he accepts my suggestion I may assure him that I am prepared to forego my own compensatory allowance for a period of five years and also persuade my Friends sitting on the Opposition Benches to do likewise in order to provide relief to the destitute and distressed people of Hissar. Then, Sir, my hon. Friend also knows fully well that there used to be only six Ministers in the United Punjab and now after the partition there is need only for 2 Ministers. There is also an urgent need for cutting down expenditure on the top-heavy Administration of the Government and abolishing the posts of Financial Commissioners and Commissioners. The staff of Officers of the Government should also be reduced to one-tenth of the present strength and the money thus saved should be utilised in giving relief to our famine-stricken brethren who are dying of starvation. It is a pity that my hon. Friend the Finance Minister, who is a monied man, feels hesitant to spare funds to alleviate the distress of the suffering humanity. But for my part I may assure him that I am prepared to leave my profession and do any work which he may entrust to me to serve the famine-afflicted people. (*Voices : send 200 wagons of fodder in that area*) I know that the Government will not pay any heed to my suggestions and would prefer to spare funds for the appointment of

Deputies to the hon. Ministers. I vividly recollect that once Mahatma Gandhi said in the pre-independence days that if the Congress accepted office, its Ministers would draw Rs. 500 per mensem as their salary. But now the followers of Mahatma Gandhi have changed their outlook and want to rule with great pomp and show. They want luxurious cars at Government expense for their rides.

Mr. Speaker : It would be better if the hon. Member avoids making any irrelevant remarks in future.

Shri Dev Datt Puri (Jagadhri) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, I feel that instead of raising objections to the spending of this amount, the hon. Members on my right should have appreciated that this money was going to be utilised on sinking wells, etc., for the supply of water to arid areas, and as such, the atmosphere in this House should have been cool. But unfortunately the promised supply of water did not produce the cooling effect. (*Laughter*) Well, Sir, I would request my brethren on the opposite benches, that if it lies in their power, let them arrange money for us from Russia. America is advancing us money without any condition and if Russia is also willing to give us money unconditionally, we are prepared to take advantage of that offer.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Members not to discuss this point.

Shri Dev Datt Puri : Very well, Sir. I bow to your ruling. Then, Sir, another thing of which my hon. Friends made a mention was that they would like to have three Ministers in place of eight. I think, Sir, that it will suit them more if there is only one dictator in place of all the Ministers.

Mr. Speaker : Talking irrelevant things is also an infection. When one Member starts indulging in irrelevant talks others get the cue from him. May I ask the hon. Members to leave aside America and Russia and confine themselves to Punjab only ?

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, during today's debate, a reference had been made to the execution of community projects schemes. I am one of those fortunate people in whose district one of these projects is being started. Sir, when the decision for starting these projects in Jagadhri Tehsil was arrived at, I felt at first a little surprised that this project was going to be started in this ilaqa the people of which were comparatively not so back-

[Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan]

ward. But, after meeting and discussing this point with my Friend and hon. Member from Jagadhri who knew about the community projects and with whose efforts those projects were being started in Jagadhri Tehsil, I was satisfied that the Jagadhri Tehsil was a suitable place for the execution of this scheme. There were special reasons underlying. It is already a canal irrigated area and the electric supply is also available there and after the implementation of this scheme this ilaqa will become the pride of the State. The people of other districts will envy and try to emulate our example. They will themselves make earnest endeavour to work out the schemes themselves (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member to proceed on and not to pay any attention to the interruptions from Opposition. The hon. Members are wasting his time.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Sir, my hon. Friends of the Communist Party and the hon. Members of the Opposition are in the habit of doing ill turn to others and are always anxious to let them down. They have not learnt to do something beneficial for others. Well, Sir, I was submitting that surely these community projects will prove to be a perennial source of benefit to the people of the State and ours will be an ideal State. But, Sir, I may also impress upon the Ministers, through you, the necessity of keeping vigilance over the working of officers and of not allowing them to indulge in mal-practices as they did in the past. (*Interruptions from Communists.*) Sir, permit me to recite a couplet in this connection (*noise.*)

मेरा ज़िगर देख कि उफ तक नहीं करता ।

मेरा ज़िगर देख कि उफ तक नहीं करता ।

Sir, the interruptions from my Communist Friends remind me of a couplet which aptly applies to them. The couplet is :

मासूके मा बशेवह बहर कस बराबर अस्त ।

बामा शराब खुद, बा ज़ाहिद नमाज़ कर्द ।

मासूके मा बशेवह बहर कस बराबर अस्त ।

बामा शराब खुद, बा ज़ाहिद नमाज़ कर्द ।

What I mean to say, Sir, is that the Communists were with us when we started propaganda against helping the British Government in the II World War. But, no sooner did Russia join the Allies against Germany than they began to say that it was people's war. The treatment of our beloved is alike towards all. He takes wine with us and says prayers with the ascetic.

An hon Member : The hon. Member indulges in drinks also ?

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Yes. I am always tipsy with the wine of Divine Love. Then, Sir, taunting remarks are being made from the opposite side that our people will fall under the thralldom of the foreigners. I may tell the hon. Members on the opposite side that we, the Punjabis, have been ceaselessly fighting the struggle of Independence and never will we tolerate to be influenced by any thing, be it foreign money or any thing else. We will not lose our hard won independence at any cost. The people who pass such remarks have themselves not got a clear conscience. They are themselves slaves and would wish us to be so

Shri Gorakh Nath (Narot Jaimal Singh) (Hindi) : Sir, a doubt has arisen in my mind like the hon. Members opposite. There is very little literature and maps available about these projects. What I have been able to gather is that instructors will be imported from America and they will train our workers and volunteers for carrying out these projects. *(Interruptions.)*

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to proceed with his speech undisturbed.

Shri Gorakh Nath : Well, Sir, I was going to submit that so far as my information goes, it is clear that the work of these projects would be carried out under the direct supervision of American Instructors. Three hundred villages have been included in each project and according to the estimated costs of these projects Rs. 21½ thousands come to the share of each village. Out of this amount, Rs. 13 thousands would be utilised on the project work while the rest will be spent, or if I may say so, wasted on the salaries of those instructors and other staff and contingency expenses of their department. Under these circumstances, Sir, I have serious apprehensions that possibly the best use of the money allotted for these projects, may not be made and proper training may not be imparted to the people of those villages. I, therefore, request the hon. Ministers to be vigilant regarding the use of these funds. By

[Shri Gorakh Nath]

criticising these projects, Sir, I do not mean to support the Opposition. I have only given a frank expression to my views.

It is not my intention to express myself on this subject in the same strain as the hon. Members from the Opposition Benches want to do. It is my sincere desire that people may be able to find work and unemployment may go. Besides, I desire that industry may make a rapid progress in the State.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North-West) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is necessary that India should exert for its prosperity after it has attained its political freedom. So, today, in our State, the community projects are going to be worked out under the Directive Principles of State policy as laid down in the Indian Constitution. According to these directions, out of the 26 States of India, our State has been selected for the starting of five community projects. These projects are meant for the development of rural areas.

Sir, no country in the world has ever developed its resources without getting aid from an industrially advanced country. This aid can be in the form of technicians, machinery or financial assistance. So those countries which did not feel the necessity of obtaining financial help from other countries, got technical aid. They took the help of foreign technicians for the development of their industry. My friends, who have criticised our Government for obtaining this aid from America, perhaps conveniently forget that for the development of China, Mao Tse Tung had to approach Stalin for the grant of technical aid. (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Speaker : It is not fair to interrupt when an hon. Member is speaking but, unfortunately, he is also irrelevant like others who have preceded him. Will the hon. Member discuss only the matter before the House? Stalin and Truman do not come in the politics of the Punjab.

Shri Ram Kishan : Sir, I was only telling my hon. Friends who have criticised the policy of the Government of India for obtaining aid from America for the development of the resources of our country, that other countries, too, had to secure foreign aid for the development of their countries. Even China had to depend upon the aid of Russia.

Mr. Speaker : Is the hon. Member determined not to be relevant?

Shri Ram Kishan : Sir, I want to tell the hon. Members that under the Ford Foundation, Community Project Training Centres are to be opened at five places in our State. Under these schemes during the last three years, experiments were first made in Uttar Pradesh at Etawah. The House will be pleased to note that these experiments have been very successful there. By the help of American technicians and machinery, the production from the lands there has very much improved. The land which three years ago produced only 10 maunds of wheat per acre, now produces 300 per cent more. Now from these lands, wheat, other food grains, sugar-cane and potatoes etc., are being produced with much better results.

Sir, as a matter of fact there the work is being carried out by Co-operative Societies. A Co-operative Society which was started in the year 1949 with a capital of rupees thirty five thousand, has now rupees two lakhs and fifty thousand to its credit. I would, therefore, impress upon the hon. Members the fact that unless undivided attention is paid to the work of community projects it cannot make any headway. In fact the task before the Government is immense and the whole structure can be erected only if we work from bottom upwards with zeal and enthusiasm. For this purpose I would like to suggest that a Sewak Sena should be organised in the State. Only those persons who volunteer to work in a missionary spirit and for the love of their country, should be entrusted with this work. They should possess a thorough knowledge of the conditions prevailing in our countryside and be imbued with the love for manual work. I am of the opinion that only such officers who can mix with the masses can make community projects a grand success. At this stage I would like to point out that our Government is not putting its heart and soul into this work. For instance many decisions were arrived at in the States Development Conference held recently. But I am constrained to remark that so far no steps have been taken to put the programme chalked out there into practice. Even the selection of village development workers has been delayed. It was tentatively decided that a start regarding this Scheme would be made by September but I regret to note that no measures so far have been adopted in this direction. I feel that taking of immediate steps by the Government in the direction of the fulfilment of our promises is of an imperative necessity. I would, therefore, like to suggest that a national register should be maintained in every village under this scheme. It should contain information regarding the progress of the project from year to year. In this way we would be in a position to apprise the public of the measure of progress made in the spheres of production, education, etc.

Shri Sri Chand : On a point of information. Sir. Is there anything in writing from which details regarding Community Projects can be seen ?

Minister for Public Works : There is a book on it.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : But it is not available in the market. Arrangements should be made for its distribution among the Members.

Minister for Revenue and Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (Punjabi) : Sir, I wanted to listen to some more speeches from the hon. Members but since I find that even some of the intelligent Members are labouring under certain misconceptions, I have decided to intervene at this stage with a view to explaining certain points which they have raised about the Community Projects. This scheme is designed to achieve the economic, social, educational and cultural progress of the people of this State. It will raise the standard of living of the masses. As a matter of fact it is not an isolated scheme for Punjab only. In fact it is part of a bigger scheme intended for the whole of the country. At present Batala, Sonapat, Jagadhri, Nawanshehr, Nilokheri and Faridabad have been selected as centres for community development.

An hon. Member : What about Balabhgarh ?

Minister for Revenue and Development : So far no steps have been taken to include Balabhgarh.

Shri Kedar Nath Sahgal : Is then, the promise of the Finance Minister a mere '*lara lupa*' ?

Minister for Finance : I held out no such promise. It was in fact an informal understanding.

Minister for Revenue and Development : Sir, I was saying that certain areas have been selected and we shall try to do our utmost to develop them. Some of the hon. Members have given suggestions in this connection, but there are others who have unnecessarily dragged in the name of America in the debate. The matter, in my opinion, concerns the Government of Punjab only and to a certain extent the Government of India. Of course, certain agreements have been made but the hon. Members may rest assured that no strings are attached to them. I am prepared to show such agreements, if necessary. But take it from me that we cannot allow ourselves to come under the political sway of any power.

Why talk of America alone ? We are prepared to accept help from whatever quarter it may be forthcoming. But in return we cannot allow any political benefits to any helping country. Punjab has nothing to do with foreign countries. Our sole object is to develop our State with aid from wherever it is available. We have seen that during the last World War even America did not hesitate to accept help from countries like Russia and *vice versa*. So when Russia can seek the aid of American people in their fight against Fascism why cannot we get help from them in our fight against poverty and ignorance ? If any country is prepared to extend any help to us for fighting against such evils. I see no harm in accepting it. We are prepared even to accept Russian aid for the development of our country. As a matter of fact we are placed in such a position that we cannot but accept help from all quarters, whatever they may be. We are not enamoured of any 'isms'. Our sole object is to reconstruct the shattered structure of our state. With this object in view, I would like to submit that those who believe in 'isms' should talk less and put in more solid work. It is only by constructive work that they can achieve their 'isms' and not otherwise. Their first concern should be to make our country as strong as Russia or America in every respect. With this object in view we are trying to develop our rural life by community projects. The loans for this purpose are to be advanced by the Government of India. It does not matter how the Central Government makes provision for this money or from where it secures it. Our business is to utilize it properly for the good of our State. We have to create conditions under which this scheme may make a rapid progress. We have to create enthusiasm among the masses for the successful prosecution of this project by Co-operative effort, so that they may be able to spend more than what they get from the Government by collecting funds on a Co-operative basis. Our business is to set the people going on this road and the real economic and social progress is to be achieved by them only through their own best efforts.

Then, Sir, some of my Friends complained that high salaried officers had been appointed for the supervision and execution of these projects. I wish to tell them that only such persons have been appointed who understand the needs of the villagers and command respect from them. What we have to do, is to create awakening among the public. As I have already stated, we have no particular love for America, nor do we dislike anything done in Russia. We want our country to prosper and we cannot afford to align with one block or the other. Our people do

[Minister for Revenue and Development]

not get sufficient food and clothing and they have no houses to live in. These are our needs and if America or any other country comes to our aid, we shall welcome it. We have not requested any country for such help, nor are we prepared to accept it at the cost of our national interests. Our aim is to develop the country so as to make it prosperous. America thinks that we are with Russia and the latter thinks that we are with the former. We are friends of both. Our Prime Minister, who made so much sacrifice for liberating the country from foreign rule, cannot be expected to sell our interests for a few crores of rupees. Some of my hon. Friends sitting opposite made many mis-statements, but I was pained to hear one of the hon. Members sitting on this side of the House saying such things. We have to spread education, improve agriculture, bore tube-wells, build roads and arrange for proper breeding of cattle. These community centres are meant for bringing about an all round progress in the country. Obviously suitable men are required to run these centres. It is my responsibility to engage suitable officers and I have appointed persons whom I considered eminently fit for the job. Let me clearly state the whole position. These officers are experts in agriculture and co-operative work and have a reputation for honesty and efficiency. I know the type of officers required for this kind of work and I can say emphatically that persons considered most suitable have been appointed. Moreover, these projects involve a huge amount of expenditure and only those persons could be made in-charge of this work who could be expected to make it a success. It is wrong to say that instructors will be imported from America. We have got the necessary talent in the Punjab but we lack in facilities so essential for the purpose. If we had the facilities we could make sufficient headway in a short time. I reiterate that it is not correct to say that we shall be aligning ourselves with the country extending necessary aid to us in this direction. But if some alternative or a better scheme is suggested to bring about the required results, we shall gladly consider it. Survey officers have already been appointed for Tehsils Nawanshahr, Sonapat, Jagadhri and Batala where these projects are proposed to be started. These officers are surveying the roads and irrigation facilities existing in those places. In about a month's time they will be able to prepare the maps. When that is done, we propose to indicate in those maps the annual progress made under the schemes. Then we shall be in a position to decide about the extent of progress which we can make afterwards.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Why has no tehsil in Amritsar district been chosen for this purpose ?

Minister for Revenue and Development : I am pained to find my hon. Sister thinking along these lines. She who suffered innumerable hardships in the cause of the country, should not regard herself as belonging to one particular tehsil. The whole of Punjab belongs to her. I feel sorry when I hear the hon. Members say that their tehsils should have been selected for this work. It was after careful thought that the selection of these particular tehsils was made for the Community Centre Scheme. We wanted to try this experiment at those places first where roads, suitable means of irrigation, co-operative societies and other facilities were available. If we achieve success in our first experiment, it will create enthusiasm among the people and then we will be in a position to undertake similar work at other places. There are two or three backward districts in the Punjab. They will also receive benefit of this scheme, because it is proposed to extend it to the whole of the State. Every place will get its turn. After it has been tried at places where certain facilities exist, it will be worked in tehsils where some such facilities are lacking. Last of all, it will be extended to the most backward tehsils. Naturally, the experiment had to be tried at those places first which held out maximum chances of success.

Shri Ranjit Singh : Could it not be tried in some tehsil of Rohtak ?

Minister for Revenue and Development : The hon. Member is thinking of Hissar, but he is wise enough not to name it. He is purposely enquiring about another district.

Sardar Chanan Singh : In reality the hon. Minister knows that the scheme is not going to succeed.

Minister for Revenue and Development : The hon. Member is giving expression to his own desire. It is he who wants the scheme to fail.

We are not starting them at other places at present, because we want to make sure of the success of the scheme at places selected by the Government.

Since community projects are the first of their kind to be started in India, we want to gain experience from their working in actual

[Minister for Revenue and Development]

practice before embarking on the development of other areas of the State. We shall most certainly extend them to other parts of the State in due course of time. All of us including my friends opposite should make every effort to make this experiment a success because it is replete with immense possibilities for the development of our State. My friend Shri Wadhawa Ram is mistaken in thinking that we are betraying our country—we, who have been honoured with the trust and the confidence of the people and have been voted to power. It is strange logic that those representatives who have been returned to power by the people be dubbed as traitors and those who have been rejected at the polls are to be considered as true patriots.

Sardar Chanan Singh : No, patriot is he who accepts American money in charity.

Sardar Gopal Singh : May I ask him one question ?

Mr. Speaker : I will not allow any interruptions.

Sardar Gopal Singh : The hon. Minister has given way, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : I have already said that I would not allow any interruptions.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Then, Sir, you are showing partiality.

Mr. Speaker : You should withdraw these remarks. As you are the Leader of the Opposition, you should be careful while making remarks. I only wanted that the Minister should continue his speech uninterrupted. If you want to say anything, you can speak afterwards. In fact I have not allowed anybody to interrupt when speeches are being made on the floor of this House.

Minister for Revenue and Development : I would request my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his words.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I want to ask a question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : You should withdraw your remarks first.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I withdraw my remarks but at the same time I want to raise a point of Order, Sir. It is a part of parliamentary procedure that if a Minister has given way, the Speaker does not usually

interfere but you have been interfering all the time, Sir. You have not been fair.

Mr. Speaker : What is the fun of withdrawing your remarks, when you are saying again that I have not been fair. I will not allow you to make any aspersion on my conduct. There was no partiality. It was only to allow the Minister to continue his speech that I asked you not to interrupt.

Sardar Gopal Singh : He gave way, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : I do not know about it. I again say that I will not allow any interruption, and I would ask you to withdraw your remarks.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Very well, Sir. In deference to your wishes I withdraw my remarks unconditionally.

Minister for Revenue and Development : I never expected such irresponsible remarks from the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, it is very good of you that you are discouraging the Members from making interruptions. So, I thank you, Sir.

Sardar Saroop Singh : On a point of Order, Sir. Is this 'homily' to the Speaker in order ?

Mr. Speaker : You never objected when the Leader of the Opposition cast aspersions on my conduct, but when the Minister has said something right, you call it a 'homily'.

Sardar Saroop Singh : Two wrongs do not make one right.

Mr. Speaker : You, being a reasonable man of the Opposition, should have supported the right thing.

Minister for Revenue and Development : Three wrongs will not make two rights, Sir.

I was going to say, Sir, that instead of indulging in criticism for the sake of criticism we should all make a united effort to heal the wounds of this bleeding, devastated, ruined State of ours—a victim of the sword of partition.

There is no gainsaying the fact that we have not been able to do as much all these years as was desirable and desired yet let

[Minister for Revenue Development]

us not forget the saying of one of our sages :

अपनी हथी अपना आपे ही काज स्वारीये ।

ਆਪਣੀ ਹਥੀਂ ਆਪਣਾ ਆਪੇ ਹੀ ਕਾਜ ਸਵਾਰੀਏ ।

We ourselves have to build the future of this State and carve a destiny for it, bearing all the time in mind the advice of the great Guru. My friends need not worry because community projects have not been started in their tehsils. Time is not far off when every tehsil, nay every village of this State will be the venue of such like development projects. (*Cheers*). Let us welcome whatever little monetary assistance we can get to rehabilitate the fortunes of this State. (*Renewed cheers*)

(At this stage the Speaker called upon Professor Mota Singh to deliver his speech.)

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) : May I request the hon. Speaker to permit me to speak from a seat closer to the throne, as I am hard of hearing ?

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry that under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assembly permission cannot be granted for that purpose. The hon. Member must speak from his own seat. Moreover, a deaf man is not precluded from speaking loudly. In fact he wants to speak rather than to hear. So deafness cannot be treated as a valid reason for a change of seat.

Professor Mota Singh : But I want your help in overcoming my difficulty. I seek your advice in this matter.

Mr. Speaker : Since I am governed by rules, I cannot allow you to speak from a seat other than the one allotted to you. Tomorrow we shall arrange to have a longer wire attached to the mike and this will facilitate in overcoming the difficulty of my hon. Friend.

Professor Mota Singh : The rope may be long or short, for me it is immaterial (*laughter*). I know the value and significance of a rope.

Mr. Speaker : I have given my ruling and if the hon. Member is reluctant to make his speech from his own seat, then let him please himself. I would ask another hon. Member to speak.

Professor Mota Singh : All right, Sir, I will speak from my own seat. Mr. Speaker, I am really surprised to hear your remarks about my deafness. I feel as if they were made by you more in the capacity of a Doctor than as Speaker of the House. I did not expect such sort of things being attributed to me. However, I hope, I would be allowed to make my full contribution to the debate on the motion now before the House. (*Voices :* It would be better if the learned Professor speaks in Hindi or Punjabi.) If that is the wish of the hon. Members, I would certainly comply with their command. Sir, I was under the impression that after the attainment of independence we would act in conformity with the highest and noblest traditions of democracy inside as well as outside the legislatures but my experience of the first legislature with which I am connected has not been a very happy one. I would frankly admit that I have been rather disillusioned with the manner and tone of the debate in this House, which has been, to put it mildly, surcharged with irony and sarcasm. Before proceeding further I would appeal to the hon. Members to maintain the dignity of the House under all circumstances.

Now, the first item on this Appropriation Bill relates to administration. So long as the tone of administration is not improved, freedom will have no meaning for the common man. It is today in a very degenerated condition and it will require strenuous efforts on the part of us all to rid it of corruption and inefficiency. If only the Congress succeeds in giving the people pure and honest administration, it will never lose the confidence and respect of the masses. So we have first to see that the money voted for this purpose is properly spent.

But we generally find that the expenditure on General Administration usually exceeds the provision which is made in the Budget. I am afraid that whatever provision has been made would not be rightly spent if the administration continues to function in the same old bureaucratic way and our efforts both in the Assembly and outside it to reform the administration will go waste. I would, therefore, request the Government that it should address itself to this task seriously and after feeling the pulse of the public take remedial measures in this direction. I would not like to take up each department individually and make criticism against it because I feel that there are many good and honest officers in every department but I cannot help saying that the number of those who are corrupt is fairly large. I remember that some time

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back my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh who was then the President of the Provincial Congress had remarked that 90 percent of the officers of Government were corrupt but I will plainly say that the number of such officers is still very large. If the Government really mean to overhaul the administration it should constitute Boards which should see in which department the staff is surplus and make retrenchment accordingly. The Government should encourage good and honest officers and also increase the pay of low paid employees.

I now advert to the Education Department. There is no gainsaying the fact that the present system of education is very faulty. Macaulay, the father of this system introduced it for the mass production of cheap English-knowing clerks. Now the position is that the market is already flooded with unwanted graduates and the supply is outstripping the demand. The educated unemployed young men are feeling disappointed and frustrated by not getting any job in any Government department. If this small minority of the educated young men cannot be absorbed in the country's economy, my head actually reels to think what the position of unemployment would be when hundred per cent of our young men are educated. Though the Government has taken steps for the nationalisation of text books it has failed to reorientate the system of education. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to raise the standard of education in our State so that it is in no way inferior to the standard of the United States of America or that of Russia.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the subject under discussion.

Professor Mota Singh : So far as the question of America's financial aid to India to finance the scheme of Community Projects is concerned, I may submit that our Prime Minister, Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru sometime back explained the position and said that if any country were to imagine that we were going to change our policy for a mess of potage, then that country was completely mistaken. He also said that if any help from abroad depended upon the slightest variation of his policy he would prefer starvation to changing that policy. In this connection I would say that if we wish to push forward the development programme of Community Projects in our State we should take lesson from Russia. There is hardly a country like that where such a superb system of economic development exists. When I went to Russia I was simply wonder-

struck to see the all-round development which that country had made. We should, therefore, follow the example of Russia and America and make a vigorous drive to develop the economy of our State.

Sir, this scheme of Community Projects will prove of immense benefit to our State and our Communist brethren should certainly welcome the step taken by our Government. They are ignoring the reality and looking upon this project from their own angle of vision. According to the preamble of the Indian Constitution equal opportunity is to be afforded to all in social, economic and political matters. If this programme of Community Projects is pushed forward energetically, then time is not far off when the world will be amazed at the rapidity and enormousness of progress made by India.

Then, Sir, I have to say something about the Hissar famine. I feel that the amount provided in the Budget is inadequate and with this amount it is hardly possible to touch even a fringe of the problem confronting us. I have seen the condition of famine-stricken people of Hissar with my own eyes. It was terrible to see starving humanity and famished cattle moving about helplessly. If I remember aright, in those days the Government issued a press communique that there was not a Famine in Hissar but there were only conditions of scarcity of fodder. I think by saying so the Government did great disservice to the people of Hissar as the relief which could otherwise be expected was not forthcoming. (*Voices: Shame, Shame*). I have received a letter from the chairman of the Relief Committee saying that the people and cattle are dying in Hissar and that taccavi has not been given in the ilaqa of Loharu. It appears that no effective measures have been adopted to mitigate the miseries and sufferings of the famine stricken people of Hissar. The hon. Ministers go on tour in that area only to please Mr. Kapila, the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar and return without transacting any useful work there.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Mr. Kapila is indeed a "Kapila cow".

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Lady Member not to make any insinuation against any officer of the Government.

Professor Mota Singh : Then, Sir, I would request the Government to direct its attention towards the agricultural development of our State. About 90 per cent of the people in India live in villages. It should be the primary duty of the Government to improve life in villages and better the economic condition of the people as a whole. We can

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not think of agricultural development in villages unless we link them with roads. There are no veterinary hospitals in villages and the result is that cattle die in large numbers. Besides this, there is need for opening factories for manufacturing fertilisers for the development of agriculture.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra : Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now I would put the clauses to the vote of the House. Question is —

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

[CLAUSE 3]

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

The clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

[SCHEDULE]

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Schedule stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

[CLAUSE 1]

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

[TITLE]

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, I beg to move that the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill, 1952, be

passed. Sir, I have no mind to make a long speech. I have only to make one or two observations to rebut one or two things wrongly stated by my hon. Friend Professor Mota Singh. I am surprised, to hear from him, rather it is a news to me, that certain people have died of starvation in Hissar. It has pained me to find the learned Professor making such statements on the floor of the House without first verifying them.

Professor Mota Singh : I have received a letter stating these happenings.

Minister for Finance : If there was any such letter the hon. Member could easily have shown it to me and enquired about the veracity of the facts. Well, Sir, it pained me still further when he remarked that the Ministers undertook tours for the fun of it or for simply to have a chat with the Deputy Commissioner of the district. I can only say that the statement is not correct. You will remember, Sir, only yesterday, during the course of my speech, I stated that the Deputy Commissioner was not a big officer and did not require a Minister to see him at his place. I may tell my hon. Friend that a Minister can contact a Deputy Commissioner even on the telephone. He should, therefore, know that Ministers have no desire to undertake the journey to Hissar for the sake of talking with a Deputy Commissioner. The fact is that when Ministers visit Hissar, they take the Deputy Commissioner with them and tour the famine-stricken area to see things at the spot. They listen to the grievances of the people and try to redress them. I may also state, Sir, that when Professor Mota Singh went there, the Deputy Commissioner asked him to sit in his car and that he would take him to the affected areas to show the actual condition of the famine-stricken people. But what did Professor Sahib do ? He refused to accompany the Deputy Commissioner and went without him to see things for himself.

Professor Mota Singh : I had my own jeep, Sir.

Minister for Finance : If that was the case then the hon. Member could ask the Deputy Commissioner to accompany him in his jeep and take him round the famine-stricken area. But God knows which areas the Professor visited ! Whether he cared to meet the affected people, or see the Concentration Camps or the distribution of "chara" (fodder) to cattle is not known. On the other hand he started making allegations against the Deputy Commissioner who is not present here and cannot defend himself. I make bold to say, Sir, that the zeal and devotion with which that Deputy Commissioner is performing his duties at this hour of

[Minister for Finance]

need are unsurpassed. He is making ceaseless efforts to serve the suffering humanity at this time of their dire need.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Professor Sahib has not said anything against the Deputy Commiseioner. On the other hand he has expressed his opinion about the Ministers.

Minister for Finance : I am sorry the hon. Member is unnecessarily wasting his breath. I perfectly remember that he did make allegations against the Deputy Commissioner. It does not behove him to make derogatory remarks against an officer who is making all out efforts to serve the people in agony. We are well aware of this fact and the people at the spot also know it. I may tell the House that the officers themselves distributed taccavi amongst the people. Previously, taccavi was distributed at Tehsil Headquarters. But, now I have received a letter from Sardar Kartar Singh to the effect that the Tehsildar goes from one village to the other in order to distribute taccavi. The Deputy Commissioner supervises the work and the conduct of all the officers. I would ask my hon. Friends to encourage those officers who are working properly and honestly. But what do I find here ? Even honest workers are being decried.

Professor Mota Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I said nothing against the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker : My ears must have been deceiving me when I called the hon. Member to order and requested him not to make any allegation against any officer who could not defend himself on the floor of the House.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (Hindi) : Sir, I had no intention of taking part in the debate today. But since a reference has been made to the Hissar famine, I feel called upon to say something in this connection.

I have been to Hissar twice and I consider it my duty to state facts on the floor of the House to remove any misunderstandings that may have arisen in the minds of the hon. Members. I have full sympathy for the distressed people and have made thorough enquiries from them about the treatment of officers and the amount of help given to them by the Government. I have arrived at the conclusion that people are entirely satisfied with the work that Government has done there.

Sir, it was my first chance, to see with my own eyes, the treatment meted out to the public by the hon. Ministers, while on tour. I met people in the villages of Hissar, who told me that the Minister's visits had done a lot of good to them because they heard their grievances and ordered their redress on the spot. They had full sympathy with the people suffering from the famine conditions. They gave a patient hearing to every individual who came to see them. Further, Sir, I had also noticed that loans for fodder, seeds and foodgrains were being distributed by the Government officials without giving any cause for complaint to the people. Not a single case came to my notice wherein any official had made any attempt to extract money out of the pockets of the distressed people. I got this fact verified from at least 50 persons. Well, Sir, rupees 43 lakhs have already been distributed as taccavi loans and a sum of rupees 5 lakhs more has been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner of that district for this purpose. The House will be gratified to learn that not even a single person has died of hunger resulting from famine conditions prevailing there. Of course, cattle numbering about 30 thousands have died due to the scarcity of fodder. But this cattle mortality occurred before the present Ministry assumed office. So far as this Ministry is concerned, it has tried to ease the situations to the best of its ability. (*Interruptions.*) Sir, my hon. Friends from Communist Party have no business to make interruptions. They are simply behaving like Russian agents. It is no wonder that they are paid by Russia to make noise here.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi) : Sir, I am pained to see that instead of doing some solid work, attacks and counter attacks are being made by the hon. Members sitting on both sides of this august House. All the parties had fought the election on the manifesto that they would render real service to the public. I feel that by opposing each other for the sake of opposition and making speeches on frivolous matters, we are not doing any service to the people. What opinion will the people at large form about us? I would request all the hon. Members not to make personal attacks against each other.

Mr. Speaker : Has the hon. Member satisfied himself that there had been no personal attack on any hon. Member from his party?

Sardar Wazir Singh : Sir, I assure the hon. Ministers on behalf of the opposition that outside this House, we shall always help the

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

Government in doing constructive work. In fact for all types of constructive work, the services of our party shall always be at the disposal of the Government. The Congress Party in the last Assembly, used to say that real service to the public cannot be rendered by tall talk but it can be done by doing solid work. But now we see that it has failed to follow that ideal.

Then, Sir, we have to see, how funds can be made available for carrying out constructive programme. We find today, that the administration is very expensive. The number of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries and so many others is very large. In joint Punjab there used to be only 5 Ministers but now we have 7 Ministers in the divided Punjab with 13 districts only, and the 8th Minister is shortly going to be sworn in. Some Deputy Ministers may also be appointed. The thing which pains us most is that the necessity of this expansion has been felt simply to please certain Members of the party. Otherwise the work does not justify the appointments. It is our sincere desire that the expenses on administration be brought down and the number of Ministers reduced. Only those hon. Members, who are considered fit for the work should be taken as Ministers. The party in power has already a strength of one hundred and it should have no ground of fear of its Ministry falling. Sir, I assure the hon. Chief Minister that in case certain hon. Members of his party try to overthrow his Ministry simply for the reason that their personal interests are not satisfied, then all the 26 Members of the Opposition shall support him and save his Ministry.

Mr. Speaker : This is irrelevant, please. Question is—

That the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account)
Bill 1952 be passed.

The motion was carried.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, the 18th
June 1952.*

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 18th June 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4, at 2 p. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : Some Members both from the Government and the Opposition Benches have approached me with the request that the question hour may be dispensed with today and the general discussion on the Budget may be taken in hand so that they may have more time to make speeches and discuss the Budget thoroughly. I want to have your views, though I am fully empowered to dispense with it myself.

Further, I want to point out to the hon. Members that yesterday certain unpleasant things had occurred. One of them was that when an hon. Member was speaking, another hon. Member stood up to interrupt him and I disallowed it. To examine it whether it was according to the Parliamentary practice or not, I quote a ruling of the Parliament which is :—

When this happens, the Speaker warns the Members who interrupt the speech. The duty of maintaining a Parliamentary standard of behaviour is incumbent upon Members in the House and the jurisdiction of the Speaker to punish offences extends fully.

Yesterday, Sardar Gopal Singh wanted to ask something on a point of information from the Development Minister who was then speaking and Sardar Partap Singh had given way. But I had not allowed Sardar Gopal Singh to ask anything on that occasion. It is necessary that it must come to my notice that an hon. Member has given way while speaking in order to allow another hon. Member to speak. For doing so, my attention must be drawn. Now, that thing is over. He has withdrawn the words used by him. I was never partial. It was not fair on his part to use those words. I do not like that there should be interruptions when an hon. Member is speaking. I know from my personal experience that when a person is delivering a speech and he is interrupted, all his concentrated ideas get disturbed.

Now I request the hon. Minister for Revenue and Development to move the motion.

Minister for Local Self Government : It is requested, Sir, that if an hon. Member willingly gives way to another Member while speaking, then the other Member may be allowed to raise any point.

Mr. Speaker : At least I must know about it.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table of the House —

the Punjab Prevention of Ejectment (Temporary Powers) Ordinance, 1952 promulgated since the prorogation of the last Session of the Assembly as required by clause (2) (a) of Article 213 of the Constitution.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 23.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, with your permission, I move—

that Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th June, 1952.

Neither I nor my Government like that the time reserved for the non-official business be used for official business. But this is a lengthy Session. We shall be able to have sufficient time for non-official business. We have now to discuss the Budget which has greater importance and should be taken up immediately. I am sorry that even one day meant for non-official business is being taken away. I hope the House will agree to it willingly so that more time is available for the general discussion of the Budget. We shall, however, make available some other occasion for non-official business.

Mr. Speaker : The motion moved—

that Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be Suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday the 19th June, 1952.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, I oppose this motion. There is only one day in a week for the transaction of private members business which is utterly insufficient. Now, that is also being demanded by the Government for official business. Therefore, I oppose the motion very strongly.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi) : Sir, In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister for Revenue and Development, I support the motion and do not oppose it. I hope the Government will compensate the Opposition by giving some time for non-official business afterwards.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

that Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th June, 1952.

The motion was carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to the General discussion of the Budget. I want that as many of the hon. Members as possible may take part in the discussion. On the other side, it is the desire of the hon. Members to get as much time for their speeches as possible. So we will have to find out a *via media* and limit the time of a speech. May I invite suggestions in this connection ?

Minister for Finance : I think half an hour for the first speaker and twenty minutes for the others will do.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, it has been a convention of this House that on the first day the Members are allowed to take an hour or so each. Then on the second day the time limit is imposed. I hope this convention will be followed.

Minister for Development : Sir, the convention in this House has been that the first Speaker who opens the debate—generally it is opened by the Leader of the Opposition—and he is given 30 minutes. After that, I suggest, if you kindly agree with me, and I hope the House will also agree, we should give 20 minutes each to other Members and that convention should continue till the discussion on the Budget is over.

Mr. Speaker : Well, I appreciate the suggestion put forward by the Development Minister. I will first allow 30 to 40 minutes to the Leader of the Opposition and I hope he will not tire himself. The rest of the Members will be given 20 minutes each.

Sardar Shamsheer Singh (Ludhiana Sadr) (Punjabi) : Sir, I am sorry that it is not possible for me to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for the bureaucratic Budget which he has presented to the House for the year 1952-53 (*interruption*). In this Budget there is nothing which can be of benefit to the common man. The poor classes of people have been ignored altogether. It is essentially a rich man's Budget. The profiteers and the capitalists are encouraged whereas the poor people are discouraged. If we look at the various items of expenditure in the Budget we come to the conclusion that it appears to be the Budget of a

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police State. Expenditure on police has increased and it cannot be justified in any way. Such an expenditure was understandable during the British regime because a foreign Ruler cannot ordinarily do without a great deal of police. But now our own Government should spend more on beneficent departments than on police etc. If we look to other States of India we will find that Punjab is spending comparatively more on police and our Government takes pride in doing so. C. I. A. is a part of our Police Department and the people know what atrocities are committed by it on the poor people. We need hardly add that the Nazi atrocities perpetrated in Balson and other Nazi concentration camps pale into insignificance before them. I congratulate our Government for this international superiority gained by their police.

Another thing which I should mention here is the manner in which procurement is carried on by the officials. The Minister of Civil Supplies has produced a certificate from the Government of Bombay praising their policy with regard to procurement.

Minister for Local Self-Government : We have produced no such certificate. It is wrong.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : What I mean to say is that he referred to the words of praise which the Government had from certain speakers at a conference held in Bombay. As a matter of fact how can people at a distance of hundreds of miles know of conditions prevailing here. We know what is happening in the villages and how procurement is done. We have been told that this year the procurement is larger because there is a bumper crop in the State. I am a farmer and as such I can state that this year the yield of wheat is less than it was in the last year. So the question arises as to why there is increased procurement if there is no increased production? The answer is that in the last season the farmers due to slump lost heavily in sugar-cane and other crops. They had to take loans to meet their expenses. So now they are bringing wheat to the market in order to pay off the loans they took. They have been forced by circumstances to do so, with the result that they will have no wheat left for themselves and their families. They will have to eat maize, etc. The condition of the poor peasants is extremely pitiable and worse than that of prisoners. They produce foodgrains for others but they themselves are unable to use it freely. The attitude of the Government towards them is such that even for the work of consolidation of

holdings it asks the farmers to pay fees. Large amounts by way of revenue are charged from the villagers but in return very few facilities are provided. They have been driven from pillar to post. Most of the taxes fall upon such people but the benefits are enjoyed by others.

The expenditure on General Administration is very heavy but the beneficent departments are starving. Under these circumstances how can the authorities ask people to be happy with them? They keep them disgruntled and ask them to be content and not to raise their voice in protest. This state of affairs should end and the Government should do more for the poor people who are the real producers of wealth.

I am unable to understand the necessity of having such a large army of officers. The Government should appoint a Commission for finding out and suggesting methods of reducing expenditure on the administration of the State. The Ayyanger and Daruwala Committees appointed by the Central Government did useful work and I am sure that if responsible and experienced persons are appointed as members of the Commission suggested by me, its suggestions will be very useful. Administration should be decentralised and more powers should be transferred to the Village panchayats. It is only then that real independence will come into existence. Red-trapism still controls the administrative machinery. Whatever a Patwari writes is accepted by the Deputy Commissioner and if a Sub-Inspector of Police reports that a certain person is undesirable and his arms license should be cancelled, the Government takes action on his report without verifying the facts.

One thing for which we must give credit to the British is that they did not tolerate inefficiency in the administration. After independence, inefficiency is on the increase in every Government Department. By asking question, I tried to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Public Works to one particular difficulty of the people of my illaqa. The breaches on Sirhind canal have been shown as cuts. This has been done in order to avoid putting earth on the Rajbahas. Money sanctioned in the Budget for that work is misappropriated by the Engineers. No earth has been put on the Rajbahas of Sirhind canal for the last several years. While replying to one of my questions the hon. Minister stated like an I. C. S. Officer that it was not the case. I shall request the Government to remove this difficulty of the people.

Then, Sir, there is acute shortage of trees in our State. Van-mahautsava is held twice a year for the purpose of planting trees. During

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the tree plantation weeks, the Ministers visit different towns in the plains and plant trees. Their photographs and speeches are published in the newspapers. Van-Mahautsavas have been held during the last three years but if one travels from Ludhiana to Ambala he will find no tree along the road planted during this period. During the reigns of Chandra Gupta Maurya and Sher Shah Suri, fruit trees were found along all the roads in India but very few of the trees planted by our Government during the last three years have survived.

Let me take the case of compost pits now. The revenue officers go to the villages and ask people to dig pits for compost-manure. Then the officials of the Co-operative Department go and enquire from the villagers if they have dug manure pits. They are told that fifty pits had been dug. Officers of the Agriculture and Panchayat Departments repeat the same question. In this manner, entries regarding the existence of fifty pits are made by a number of departments. Thus the figures are multiplied to hundreds. When the Financial Commissioner visited my village, I showed him one of the manure pits dug by the villagers. He cast a casual glance at it and said in a patronising tone that we had done well. I remember that Mr. Brayne used to measure the depth of these pits and examine all their details in order to ascertain whether they were fit for making manure. What a difference ?

Let us take the case of Chandigarh next. The Government proposes to spend fourteen crores of rupees on its construction. A large amount out of this sum will be borrowed from the Government of India. I shall request the Government not to incur debts for this work. We should shift the Capital of our State to one of the already developed towns. In the Budget Memorandum, the hon. Minister for Finance has given three reasons for speeding up the construction of the new Capital. One of the reasons given by him was that with its headquarters at Simla, the Government was completely cut off from the masses. The second reason stated by him was that the people who had to come to Simla had to incur heavy expenses and trouble. The third reason was that its construction would help to rehabilitate a large number of urban refugees. One could understand the force of this reasoning, if some central place had been selected for the new Capital. Chandigarh, which is situated at the foot of the hills is far away from most of the towns in the Punjab. The refugees who have settled at some other urban places will not like to shift now to Chandigarh and to be uprooted a second time. If there is any trouble on the border of our State, the Government and their officers will run away with their families to the hills and there will be left nobody

to keep the morale of the people high. As a matter of fact, the new Capital at Chandigarh is not being built for the poor or middle classes. It is being constructed for those rich people who lived in palatial bungalows at Lahore. In spite of the fact that they are refugees, they are leading luxurious lives. Our Government has a soft corner for these people and it will advance them loans to build palaces. In the end, these loans will be written off on the plea of the loanee's inability to repay. I shall ask the Government not to incur heavy debts for this purpose. When our projects start yielding results and we are in a position to spend money, we can undertake such schemes. This is like a man marrying by selling his wife withal. If we keep incurring debts for such purposes the poor man will be burdened. We have to nationalise transport and complete huge projects. Large sums are required for these tasks and we cannot afford to increase the burden of debts. We should spend money on those projects only which guarantee sure and immediate return. We have already wasted about twenty-nine lakhs of rupees on the Tractor Cultivation Scheme. What was the cause of that loss? It is because we have not produced the required national character. What happened was that when a tractor cultivator went to cultivate a zamindar's land, the latter offered him a bottle of liquor and got fifteen or twenty acres of land cultivated against an entry of five acres in his record. It is due to the lack of national character. As machine parts are very expensive, our mechanics remove spare parts at the time of overhauling the tractors and sell them in the market. Faked and cheap spare parts are introduced in place of the genuine parts. Thus they make money at the cost of public funds. Similar things will happen in our transport department. In the manner in which the nationalized transport is being run, there can be no chance of its success.

For these reasons, Sir, I would advise the Government not to spend money on such unproductive schemes. May I ask those sitting on the Treasury Benches who are never tired of quoting British democratic conventions, to follow such conventions in the matter of road transport also. In Britain they have denationalized road transport after experimenting with nationalization for some time. Let this Government take a lesson from the British and give up pursuit and thought of such profitless ventures. Public in this State are being well-served by the private operators. They have nothing to complain against the service provided by them. Government stands to gain nothing from nationalization of transport. Why should it then deprive these thousands of poor refugees and others engaged in motor transport industry of their only source of livelihood? Is it not a great sin to snatch bread from the hungry mouths?

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I now come to the calibre and capacity of our engineers to whom the Minister for Public Works gave a merit certificate in the last Session of this Assembly by stating that even the U. N. O. had appreciated their ability and approached this Government to secure the services of a member of this talented brotherhood. Now, U. N. O. has its own politics and those who control it do not miss an opportunity to show small mercies to this country to retain it if possible on their side. If the services of an engineer from this State were requisitioned by them, it must have been with this end in view. The question of his ability does not come in. All that I know about these engineers is that they are busy amassing vast amounts of wealth, and are rolling in it. They are also living lives of luxury and indolence with their '*ranis*' in palatial bungalows. I call the wives of the S. D. O's, Executive Engineers, etc. '*ranis*' deliberately because they have in their possession treasures of jewellery and because hundreds of beldars wait upon them. Does anybody expect these Mughals of atomic age to build afresh this fragmented and tattered Punjab? Idle it is to think that these people whose motto appears to be 'now or never' and who never let a bill be paid to any Contractor without grafting 10 per cent of it will help us in carrying through our reconstruction programme. Now let me describe to you, Sir, a few of the most remarkable achievements of our able engineers. I would request the hon. Minister for Public Works to visit the new township in Khanna where nobody cares to live for fear of being drowned in the rainy season in water which collects there. Three cheers for the wise engineer who selected this low-lying area for the site of the new township where the houses are lying unoccupied despite acute shortage of accommodation? No body cares to occupy them. A bridge built in village Gil on Sidhwan Canal in my district is another achievement of the ingenuity and skill of these engineers. Its lay-out is such that accidents such as up-turning of carts are of frequent occurrence near this spot. This is not the solitary instance of its kind. Bridges, distributories, etc. built under the supervision of our able engineers generally do not remain intact for more than 6 months. Tunnels built at huge expense are washed away at the first onslaught of floods. Why? Because these engineers pay no heed to the work and their sole concern is to make money by illegal means. Some time back I went to the canal office of my district to attend the meeting of the Canal Advisory Committee. There I heard one S. D. O. expressing his surprise to the other at the allocation of a huge sum of money for a certain work in connection with Bhakhra Dam which was to be executed under the supervision of one S. D. O.

only. 'What a blunder on the part of Government to leave this huge sum to be swallowed by one person alone ! was his concluding observation on the subject. Again, Sir, the alignment of the proposed canals or distributaries affords these engineers an opportunity to extort money from zamindars likely to be affected by their construction. This alignment is changed four or five times before it is finalized. Reasons for such frequent changes are not difficult to find. Send them all to U. N. O. or take them to task for their malpractices ; this is what I demand of the Government. If they are not mended, our dream of new Punjab will never materialize. It will remain a still-born baby.

Adverting to the Grow More Food Campaign, I am of the opinion that this department should be abolished altogether and the money thus saved utilized for some other purpose. Our production cannot increase so long as electricity continues to be wasted for providing comforts to the rich living in towns, to run their electric fans, refrigerators, etc., when it is so badly needed by the peasants toiling in the scorching heat of June for working tube wells to irrigate their crops. In this food crisis, would it not be better to utilize every unit of electric energy for promoting agriculture and industry ?

Then I have to say it with regret that after spending a sum of Rs. 80 thousand on the scheme of establishing garden colonies the Government has given it up after 3 years *i. e.* before the trees could bear any fruit, in spite of the fact that the refugees interested in it had agreed to bear half of the cost. If the Government had continued it for 3 years more, we would have had today so many fruit producing gardens in our State.

Then I would like to say a few words in regard to administration of justice. The procedure followed in civil courts is so complex, dilatory and expensive that both the parties to a suit are ruined before it is finally decided by the court. This procedure was introduced by the British with a view to making money from litigation and it is continuing unmodified. It is high time that the procedure in regard to civil cases was simplified and made less expensive and nerve-racking.

Now, Sir, if I open my lips with regard to the abolition of parity in the Ministry, you would not allow me to say anything on the ground of its savouring of communalism. But I think you should not always insist upon this restriction. There are certain matters and this is one of them

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which are linked up with the good of both the communities and in such cases you should permit Members to have their say. Government has blundered by abolishing parity in the Cabinet at this stage.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member

Sardar Shamsher Singh : All right, Sir, I shall not dwell on it. You cannot, however, prevent me from referring to the step-motherly treatment being meted out to the ruralities. While the people living in urban areas and their properties are being looked after by the Police day and night, what is the condition in villages ?

Sir, There is a sense of insecurity prevailing in villages and people for fear of life are migrating to towns because they can get all sorts of amenities there. Now the tendency of every man in villages is to give preference to town life. Towns afford in a large measure facilities for education and medical aid, etc. In every town there are numerous schools and colleges ; there are big libraries. People can get large quotas of fine cloth and sugar. But, on the contrary, people cannot get even licences for arms to protect themselves in villages. In these circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to be liberal in granting licences for arms to the people living in rural areas. The life in villages is a tale of woe because people cannot even get medicines. There may be dispensaries but there are very few medicines in stock. The patients who visit these dispensaries are given 'Acqua Pura'. They cannot afford to bring doctors from the town when they fall ill and many of them die for want of proper treatment. Besides, articles of essential requirement are not available there. People cannot even carry out repairs to their dilapidated houses due to non-availability of cement.

The Government have decided to impose a tax on passengers and goods carried by motor vehicles. The Government could otherwise save crores of rupees if it were to stop the construction of buildings at Chandigarh. If it really wants to effect economy in Government expenditure, it should disband the Civil Supplies and the Publicity Departments. I also suggest that capital punishment should be provided for those who indulge in black-marketing. The Government can easily abolish the posts of Financial Commissioners and Commissioners without any detriment to efficiency of work. It is also necessary that the heavy expenditure on Police be cut down and the strength of Police should be brought to half the

present level. Special pays attached to certain posts of officers should be reduced as such pays create jealousies among officers. Besides this, the wide disparity which at present exists in the salaries of top ranking officers and the subordinate staff should be removed. The upper limit of salary to high officers should not exceed Rs. 500 and in case of subordinate staff the minimum salary should be Rs. 100.

Moreover, it is often observed that transfers of officers are made on flimsy complaints which cause great difficulty to the persons concerned. The Government have to spend about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 in each case for making shifting arrangements from one place to another. So it would be better that instead of transferring the persons against whom there are complaints they should be reprimanded.

Sardar Rajinder Singh Gyani : (Rupar) (Punjabi) : Sir, in this very House sometime back I had congratulated His Excellency the Governor for delivering an Address before us. Now today I have stood up to say something on the Budget. I have not been able to decide whether I should thank the Minister for Finance for presenting the Budget before this House or not.

Sir, before the last general elections we had been telling the electorate that we could not do much for the good of the public during the last $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. We promised that if this time we were elected we will certainly take steps to ameliorate the lot of the common man. But when I look to the Budget today I find that nothing has been done to raise the status of the poor people. At the same time there is no denying the fact that enormous sums are going to be spent to finance the gigantic development schemes that would completely revolutionise the economy of our State. But the Government has not done all that the masses generally expected of it. It has failed to tackle with the problems of masses (*Hear, hear.*) I cannot help saying that much deterioration has set in in the Government's administration. There is great difference between the salary of Financial Commissioner and the salary of Patwari. Whereas the former draws Rs. 3,500 per mensem the latter's salary is only Rs 25 per mensem. Similarly, the grade of a clerk in a Government office is 60—4—80, the teacher's grade is 50—5—125 and the poor chaprasi is placed in the grade of 20— $\frac{1}{2}$ —25. These people actually work day and night but draw very meagre salaries. In these circumstances, it is idle to talk of any improvement when these poor people are entirely ignored and neglected.

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It is the biggest fraud of our civilised life that we talk of nation building when we see that these poor men are half-fed, dissatisfied and struggling pathetically to keep body and soul together. I am in full agreement with my hon. Friend who preceded me that it is not possible to achieve this objective by taking recourse to ordinary methods : this problem can only be solved by taking bold steps. Besides this, I may point out that there is an urgent need for cutting down expenditure on the top heavy administration. It will be seen that the salary of Financial Commissioner is Rs. 3,500 per mensem which must be scaled down to Rs. 1,000 per mensem. Do we not see in the present day world that the family people of high officers pass their days in luxurious ease and comfort at some hill station during the summer whereas the poor people residing in villages have to sleep during night in the rooms where animals are tethered. I must, therefore, say that there is nothing in the Budget to raise the lot of the low-paid employees such as patwaris, constables and teachers. From the Budget I also find that the high salaries of the officers have not been touched. It is perhaps because of the fact that the officers who are entrusted with the task of the preparation of the Budget happen to draw fat salaries themselves. Such people can hardly appreciate the difficulties of the poor people. Among these well-to-do officers, unfortunately, there is more anxiety for feathering their own nests than to promote the interests of their poor brethren. If the preparation of the Budget had fallen in the hands of the poor people then the case would have been the reverse. They would have thought of making such a provision in the Budget as would relieve the distress which our State's poor classes are facing at the present moment. So with the administration manned by such officers who have earned a reputation for graft and self-aggrandizement it is futile to expect any good of the State. Under their guidance the general masses cannot hope to make any progress. Besides, the efficiency in the Government departments is at its lowest ebb. I would not like to waste the time of the House by giving examples from any departments but anyhow the efficiency has much deteriorated. Well, Sir, I am not in full agreement with those friends of mine who remark that this Budget does not contain anything beneficial for the masses of this State. A provision of an amount to the tune of Rs. 22,53,00,000 has been made in the Budget to be spent on Bhakra and Nangal scheme, with which, after some years, our Punjab will become the hub of industrial activity and these projects will supply water and

electric energy to every nook and corner of the State. Our people will have square meals and lead a comfortable life. Not only this. States of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh will also receive benefit. These far-reaching results will not remain hidden after 2 or 3 years.

Another thing that I would like to place before you, Sir, is that I differ with those friends of mine who say that our State does not stand in need of a Capital. Some days back I visited Chandigarh in the company of Ch. Lahri Singh. I have myself seen the offices that are being built there and taking in view the time and the money spent over this work, I can safely say that the progress is satisfactory. Our Government is making all these efforts for ameliorating the lot of the distressed people of our State. Our new Capital will be a source of inspiration to the Capitalists of this State to invest their capital in establishing industrial and other concerns, who, in the absence of such a place, have gone to Delhi and other neighbouring States. It will also be helpful in restoring the lost confidence of the people in our Government, and will go a long way to help us out of the present difficult situation. Starting of Community Projects also aims at improving the social as well as economic condition of the people. From this point of view I welcome the Budget. All these efforts on the part of the Government deserve tribute from the people. Well, Sir, the poor masses of our State may not be satisfied with this Budget at this stage. The reason being that a great disparity exists between the salaries of the subordinate services and the high officers. Government should immediately do something substantial to improve the lot of lower services and it should not wait for the completion of Bhakra and Nangal Projects or the implementation of excavation schemes. Then, Sir, I have been a teacher myself. Their grade of pay is only completed after a service of 30 years. By giving them an allowance of Rs 5 only up to a salary of Rs. 100 Government has ostensibly tried to satisfy them. Here, Sir, I am reminded of a couplet which reads :—

बहुत शोर सुनते थे पहलू में दिल का ।

जो चीरा तो इक कतरा ए खून निकला ।

ਬਹੁਤ ਸ਼ੋਰ ਸੁਨਤੇ ਥੇ ਪਹਲੂ ਮੇ ਦਿਲ ਕਾ ।

ਜੋ ਚੀਰਾ ਤੋ ਇਕ ਕਤਰਾ ਏ ਖੂਨ ਨਿਕਲਾ ।

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Government had promised to increase the scale of pay of teachers. But it pains me to remark that nothing substantial has been done in their case. Government being afraid of a small number of Secretaries and Commissioners' protest does not care for the lakhs of masses of this State. On the contrary, Government should not care for the luxurious lives of these big officers and should leave no stone unturned in improving the lot of the poor people.

Then, Sir, I submit that there are certain provisions in this Budget which need not have been made at this stage. For instance, there are many transport companies which are being run by private bodies. I am of the opinion, Sir, that the management of these transport companies at present being run by private organisations is better in many respects. But, now the Government are intending to start their own buses at some places and thus nationalise this trade. These private bodies have got better buses, start them at the right times and also abide by rules and regulations. In my opinion, Government have taken a hasty step in deciding to nationalise this trade.

Well, Sir, I am thankful to you for having afforded me an opportunity for placing my views before the House. So far as the execution of Bhakra and Nangal and other Community Projects is concerned, I offer my hearty felicitations to the Minister for Finance. But, so far as the Administration side is concerned, I think, he does not deserve my congratulations.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Punjabi) : Sir, I do not think that any honest Punjabi can congratulate the Punjab Ministry for the Budget which it has presented to this House. The public of this State finds that this Budget does not honestly intend to satisfy their hunger. It looks upon it with suspicion. Sir, I want to remind the hon. Members of the Congress Party, that they have won the recent elections after securing only 30% of the total votes polled. They have been able to win the elections by putting undue influence over the electorates by serving them with money and wine. (Some hon. Members : No, no)

Mr. Speaker : Please do not pass such remarks.

Sardar Chanan Singh : I admit, Sir, that by one way or another, the Congress has come in a majority in this Legislature but I remind my

hon. Friends that they have won the election by raising such slogans as :—

- (i) they will lower the abiana rates ;
- (ii) they will stop the construction of the Capital at Chandigarh ;
- (iii) they will abolish the zaildari system ;
- (iv) they will remove corruption from the State Administration ;
- (v) they will abolish the zamindari system.

Sir, I would request the hon. Members of the Congress Party to search their hearts and say whether they have even touched any of these problems on the very basis of which they have won the elections by raising slogans against the Bhargava Ministry. The other day, Sir, I heard some Congress workers saying that they got these slogans raised by the children in the lanes of certain towns of Punjab against the Ministry of Doctor Bhargava by distributing sweets amongst them. They are now following in the foot-steps of Bhargava Ministry, which they had condemned during the elections. This Budget is quite similar in form and content to the old Budgets of the Unionist Ministry and the Bhargava Ministry. In it funds are proposed to be spent in the same way as were done in those Budgets. I call this Budget as Police Budget Sir, it is strange to note that the Budget of the joint Punjab amounted to Rs. 24 crores at the time of partition. The sum of Rs. 8 crores was shared by the East Punjab but now it has increased from Rs. 8 crores to Rs. 17 crores. This income has been raised by imposing new taxes. One hundred and twelve per cent new taxes have been imposed. Further, it is interesting to note the way in which this income is proposed to be spent. Sixteen per cent of the total income is to be spent on Police. A new tax is going to be imposed on the passengers travelling in bus services in the State. They shall have to pay one pie per anna on the motor fare. Sir, this is another tax on the poor population of the State. Rich people will not pay this tax since this tax has not been imposed on them. This Budget is only meant for the benefit of the rich classes. This is a bureaucratic Budget. The provision made for the beneficent departments is comparatively much less than that made for the Police.

Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Members sitting on the Treasury Benches, in the name of patriotism, since they claim to be patriots; to rise to the occasion and stop ejection of tenants, on which

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slogan they have won the present election. According to the Government report eight thousand applications for the ejectment of tenants are pending. Tenants are daily murdered by the landlords and the police takes no action against them. At the time of election, these hon. Members had promised the electorate that they would stop the illegal ejectments as soon as they came into power. Further, at that time they had said that they could not allow the proposed Capital of the State to be constructed at Chandigarh, but we find that it is being constructed. They had also promised to lower the rates of abiana, which had been raised by the Bhargava Ministry, but we are pained to find that the same rates are being charged. They had also promised to remove corruption from the administration but that is still on the increase. They are also thinking of re-introducing the zaildari system. I would, therefore, request the hon. Ministers to fulfil the promises made to the electorate by them during the elections.

Then, Sir, there are certain departments which have lost their utility to the public. A great saving can be effected by closing them. Take the case of the Rehabilitation Department. It is located here at Simla. The poor classes of the State are unable to draw any benefit from this department. Only the rich classes, that is, the Jagirdars and big landlords who can afford to come to Simla are benefited by it. Though the allotment of land has nearly been completed, even then this department is there. The people working in this department do not wish to finish this work early, since they know that their very existence depends upon its continuance. Similarly, Sir, the poor classes of the State cannot make use of the High Court which is also situated at Simla. They cannot afford to come here to pursue their cases. Congress is not fulfilling its promises, which, it had made to the electorate during the elections. I may warn them, Sir, that as the public of the State had finished the Bhargava Ministry, when they disliked it, they can also finish their regime, which is a copy of that and treading the same path.

Sir, this is a bureaucratic Budget. The number of Deputy Commissioners has been raised from 13 to 14. The number of Ministers is being raised from 7 to 8 and even it might be raised to 9. Provision for the salaries of Deputy Ministers is also being made. The strength of the Police in the State has been almost doubled. For the construction of Bhakra Dam, an American Engineer Mr. Slocum has been put in charge of the whole scheme. Though, our country is against dictatorship, yet

he has been given the powers of a dictator. He has been engaged on a salary of Rs. 25 thousand. Besides this he will charge his T.A. bills at very high rate. He has also been empowered to purchase all the machinery at his own will.

Sir, my submission is that these officers remain out of station most of the time. They remain in India for four months and then they leave for America and remain there for the remaining eight months. Our Government has to bear the expenses of their journeys in addition to the huge salaries which are paid to them. Twelve cars, thirty five bungalows, cinemas and club houses are provided for their comforts. Something like twenty five thousand rupees are spent by way of the salary of this Engineer. There is another Engineer who is paid fifteen thousand rupees and given other facilities. Similar is the case with three other Engineers working at Bhakra. May I know why so much burden is placed on the shoulders of the poor people of this State? Why has the Government appointed such dictators at Bhakra? They have no sympathy for us. Their interest lies only in the money they get from our poor exchequer. They are always looking up to America.

As regards Chandigarh Project I can only say that the amount of rupees sixteen crores which our Government proposes to spend there, is a waste of public funds. Have not we got enough cities in our State where we can lodge our offices? This money can be more gainfully employed for some other purpose. People and cattle are starving in Hissar but our generous Government has been able to spare for Hissar a petty sum of rupees ten lakhs only. Is it not a cruel joke with the famished people? "Neros are fiddling while Rome is burning." Our Government, instead of remedying the evils of poverty and nakedness of the people, is engaged in projects which will make us bankrupt and place us at the mercy of capitalist States like America. Our Congress Government which claims to have freed India from British domination is now placing this country in the lap of American imperialism. Our Tatas and Birlas are following a policy which will bring us ruin and poverty leading to American domination of our country. Most of the Congress men have risen from the lower stratum of the people. They are not landlords and capitalists. I would request them not to be misled by others who are enemies of the poor. These soft chairs and cool breezes of Simla should not make them unmindful of the misery which engulf the vast majority of our people.

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Now I would like to come to the income of our State. It is derived from four main sources, namely; Revenues; Excise; Sales-Tax and Abiana. A major portion of this income is, in fact, a burden on the weak shoulders of the poor. In no other country are the poor so heavily taxed compared with their sources of income and standards of living as the people of this State. In addition to these major taxes there are other numerous taxes to which the poor people are subjected. The District Boards, the Municipal Committees and the Panchayats levy various taxes and duties. There are taxes on bearths. There are taxes on births at certain places. The burden of most of these taxes is generally borne by the poor people. I would request the Government to consider this matter and try to lighten this burden.

As regards expenditure, I should say that it is not properly thought out. A major portion is spent on the police and on such other items which give no direct relief to the tax payer. A sum of Rs. 2,73,64,400 is allotted for the police. This is about sixteen per cent of the total expenditure. About twenty per cent is taken up by the Governor, the Ministers and their staff. The two Commissioners are paid Rs. 72,000 annually, the fourteen Deputy Commissioners are given Rs. 1,97,690 and the Judges are paid Rs. 3,90,000. Similarly the S. Ps., the C. I. D. officers and the members of the Public Service Commission are also paid heavily. As compared with such high officers the lower staff is given wages with which they can hardly make their both ends meet. There are some low paid servants of the Governor who are given a salary of not more than twenty rupees a month. The patwaris, the jail wardens and the police constables and the teachers are given very low salaries. I wish our Government and the Minister for Finance had paid a little attention to the lot of these people.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (Hindi) : Sir, when the partition of the country took place East Punjab received fortyfive per cent of population, thirty six per cent of territory and thirty two per cent of the Revenues of the united Punjab. This part of Punjab had no capital city for the State. Most of the canal irrigated area was left in West Punjab. So under these circumstances if there were financial difficulties to be faced it was not a matter for surprise. But we have to see what attitude the Government and the Members of this august House should take for the solution of the complicated problems which have faced us after

partition. We have to see what we could do, what we have done and what we ought to do now. The hon. Finance Minister is not a magician. He has done whatever he could do under the difficult conditions in which he is placed. What I wish to submit is that the financial crisis which we face is unthinkably complicated. No ray of hope is visible. Even the Memorandum to the Budget admits that :—

In these circumstances to invariably keep expenditure within revenue is problematic. Revenue deficits may well have to be faced in future also if the State is to fulfil its obligation to the people.

So even the Finance Secretary is not prepared to give us a hope that in a period of three or four years we will be able to overcome these difficulties. At present the state of affairs is not satisfactory in any way. The conditions which prevail in hospitals, schools and other institutions of the State are in no way encouraging. The living conditions in the rural areas are hidden from no one. Under these circumstances we have to examine in what way our Government proposes to spend the revenues of the State.

First let me take up the Police Department which, if I may say so, is one of the biggest departments. In this connection I may point out that if our State excels in one thing, it is in its huge expenditure on the police. Even the hon. Finance Minister had to admit this fact in his Budget speech. He said that the percentage of this State's expenditure on police to its total revenues was the largest in India. May I ask whether this is a thing to be proud of? I would like to compare the enormity of this expenditure with that which used to be incurred in the United Punjab on police. I will quote facts and figures to show that the provision made in the Budget for police is not commensurate with our revenues. Now Sir, the expenditure incurred on police in the United Punjab, which comprised 29 districts, was to the tune of 366 lakhs of rupees. But what do we find here? Our Government has provided rupees 273 lakhs for police for this truncated Punjab consisting of only 12 or 13 districts. I am of the opinion that this expenditure should have been reduced to fifty per cent in view of the reduced area of our State as a result of partition. As I have already stated the population that migrated to this side of the border constituted 45 per cent and the revenues received were only 32 per cent. In view of this state of affairs, the only proper way for the Government was to cut its coat according to its cloth. That is, it should have provided only that much

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money for police, which it could easily do without stifling other beneficent departments. Besides, it is quite obvious that in view of the small size of our State the Government would have been well advised to reduce this provision to rupees 180 lakhs instead of putting it at Rs. 273 lakhs. Then, Sir, it has been stated in the Budget Speech that while incurring this huge expenditure on police, we are really performing functions which arise from international rather than internal causes. I do not see eye to eye with the hon. Finance Minister on this point. We see no signs of war on the horizon nor is there any other difficult situation confronting the Government making it necessary to make a large provision in the Budget for police. (An hon. Member : Large expenditure on the police is due to proximity of border.) I am coming to that point also.

Now I advert to the P. A. P. This force is chiefly responsible for protecting our borders. But the fact to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this. We have District Executive Police Force which is recruited on the basis of 13 districts of our State. Out of a provision of Rs. 273 lakhs for the police, an expenditure amounting to Rs. 241 lakhs is earmarked for this force. It would be interesting to note that in the United Punjab of 29 districts, the share of the District Executive Police used to be Rs. 291 lakhs. But now in our Punjab consisting of 13 districts, this force enjoys a lion's share to the tune of Rs 241 lakhs. I concede that necessity of incurring such a heavy amount on the District Executive Police did exist in 1947 when there was disorder all over the State and the maintenance of law and order necessitated the creation of such a large force. Now this force is still going strong and the amount earmarked for it every year is also very substantial. My point is that in the presence of District Executive Force, which is sufficient to look after the law and order in every district, where lies the necessity of having this P. A. P ? But if you must have it, as stated by my hon. Friend over there, on account of the proximity of the border, may I know whether in view of the functions this P. A. P. is performing, namely, the protection of the border, any endeavour has been made by the Government to impress upon the Central Government to accept the responsibility for maintaining this force ? No doubt the Finance Minister has remarked in his Budget speech that in spite of their efforts, this position has not been accepted by the Centre. But my point is that just as my hon. Friends occupying the Treasury Benches run to Delhi and make every

effort to keep their 'gaddis' intact, similarly if they had strained every nerve and tried with the same devotion and zeal to bring round the Centre to accept the responsibility of guarding the borders, I see no reason why they should not have succeeded in this matter. I am of the opinion that if Punjab speaks with one voice and acts like one man in pressing the Centre to pay for the maintenance of the P. A. P., I am sure that we are bound to succeed. It may be stated that in 1948—49, the Government of India granted a subsidy of Rs. one crore for this purpose. In the year 1950—51 this subsidy was reduced to Rs. 75 lakhs. But since 1951—52 this subsidy has altogether been withdrawn by the Centre and it is a thousand pities that no effort has been made by our Government to demand the renewal of this amount from the Centre. That is why our genuine demand has not been conceded by the Government of India. Sir, it goes without saying that Punjab is in great distress because of the partition and our exchequer cannot afford to set aside so much money for the P. A. P. I know that some of my remarks may not be liked by my hon. Friends, but I assure them that my intentions are good and I have no mind to taunt them. What I want to drive at is that if the whole House, including the opposition, makes a request to the Centre to pay for the P. A. P., I hope and trust that it will be very hard for the Government of India to resist. So if the Centre agrees to our demand then we can effect a saving to the tune of 60 to 70 lakhs of rupees on this account alone.

There is another item of Home Defence Guards for which a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made in the Budget. I do not think that international position is deteriorating or that the peace of our country is going to be disturbed. I feel that the District Executive Police is quite enough to maintain law and order in our State and there is no necessity of keeping these Home Guards. The amount earmarked for this purpose can easily be saved.

There is yet another item, namely, the amount of Rs. 2½ or 3 lakhs set aside for the help of ex-soldiers. I suggest that the Centre should be requested to contribute towards this fund and thus we can effect a saving of this amount as well.

I have to make other suggestions for effecting economy in the expenditure incurred on police in one form or another. The Third Armed Reserve Force was created during the war period, but it still continues to exist and this year a sum of Rs. 2,88,690/- has been provided for it. I am of the view that this force should now be scrapped

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altogether. First it has outlived its utility and secondly, as I stated in connection with another item, our District Executive Force is strong enough to do its job, and can safely be depended upon to maintain peace and tranquility in our State. A substantial amount of money will be saved if my suggestion is acted upon by the Government.

Then, Sir, a sum of no less than Rs. 10 lakhs, has been provided for the construction of quarters for the P. A. P. What a pity! When there is not enough money in the coffers of the State, when Ministers bewail of financial stringency, when we ask for liberal provisions of money in the Budget for the uplift of masses, when we need every pie to liquidate illiteracy in the State and to provide other amenities of life to the backward people, Government is setting aside a huge sum of Rs. 10 lakhs for the construction of quarters for the P. A. P. How anomalous is the position? P. A. P. which should be entirely a responsibility of the Centre, is being provided with houses by our Government at the cost of Rs. 10 lakhs while our distressed brethren are starving for want of proper help from the Government.

Then I have to make a few observations with regard to jagirdars. The Government has made a provision of 24 lakhs of rupees for the Jagirdars of Punjab, who only very recently were the friends of the British and acted as a tool in their hands to delay the dawn of independence. I would suggest that the system of Jagirdari in this State should be done away with immediately. In this way Government will be saving a handsome amount of Rs. 24 lakhs.

Now I would make a mention of the National Cadet Corps. Government has made provision of Rs. 1,15,520/- in the Budget. My feeling is that the existence of such an institution is very necessary for our State. I want that every student in the State should receive military training. But you will agree with me, Sir, that the national cadets do not fulfil any needs of the Punjab State. They will ultimately be called upon by the Defence Department whenever any war or conflict takes place. Obviously, the expenditure incurred on the National Cadet Corps should be borne by the Centre and not by this State. I, therefore, suggest that Government should make every endeavour to impress upon the Government of India the desirability of paying for the National Cadet Corpse. There is no reason why the Central Government should refuse to meet our demand.

Now I take up the question of special pays. Government has done well in deciding to do away, within a period of three years, with the special pays of all those officers who draw Rs. 500 per mensem or more. It is a pity that when the question of raising the salaries of peons comes then the Government is faced with the difficulty of financial stringency. But we find that so many officers like the Election Secretary, Director, Defence Guards and so on get more than one special pay sometimes even to the extent of Rs. 200 to 300 a month. I fail to see why this facility of gradual withdrawal of special pays has been given to the officers. I suggest that it should be withdrawn with one stroke of the pen.

Minister for Finance : It is better to withdraw it gradually.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It will give us equal satisfaction if you uplift the poor peons also step by step. It is a question of principle and not of money. I would like the services to sacrifice their special pays voluntarily, but if they do not do so, we should appeal to them and convince them that they should forego these in view of the financial condition of our State. On the one side people are dying of starvation and hunger, while on the other our Government has spread the withdrawal of special pays over a period of three years. Some officers are receiving two or three special pays. The Government should immediately withdraw special pays of those officers who are getting Rs. 1,000 per mensem or more. If they surrender these voluntarily, it would be a very nice thing, but in case they do not do so, the Government should modify the rules in order to abolish special pays.

Then, Sir, there is ample scope for retrenchment in the Civil Supplies Department. Two or three years ago, its Budget amounted to sixty lakhs of rupees. The Resources and Retrenchment Committee deputed officers to go to every district in order to see the work done by the officers of this department. On the basis of information collected by them, the Committee recommended that the expenditure on the Civil Supplies Department could be reduced from rupees sixty lakhs to thirty lakhs. Our Finance Secretary, who was the Director General of Civil Supplies at that time opposed that suggestion and insisted that he could not reduce the number of officers in his department. Probably he considered it below his dignity to have lesser number of officers under him. Now this department has only a skeleton work left. The rationing of cloth and sugar has ended and food too might be derationed at a not very distant date. There can be no doubt that cloth and sugar will not be rationed

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again. I am surprised that though the Civil Supplies Department had no work in connection with cloth and sugar during the last three months neither the Finance Secretary nor the Director General of Civil Supplies has suggested any retrenchment in this department. With your permission, Sir, I want to read out a few lines from the Memorandum prepared by our former Finance Secretary. He used these words about the services :—

A balanced Budget will only be possible if each Government servant from the highest rank to the lowest class IV employee could develop a financial conscience a financial conscience that would endeavour to save by all possible means on the one hand and raise all possible revenues on the other. Such a financial conscience should shudder at the thought of any waste of public funds, and regard such a waste as the worst social sin against the public of India.

I shall request the Government to find out if that kind of financial conscience exist among its officers. If it existed, expenditure on a number of departments could be reduced.

Now, Sir, a few words about the resources of our State. What are our main sources of revenue and to what extent have they been tapped ? The Government has imposed a tax of one pie per anna on the gross bookings of passengers and goods by road transport. This is a very good decision, but if the Government had cared to study the report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee, it could have realised sufficient revenues from road transport without increasing the bus fare from seven pies to eight pies per mile. Divergent views are held on the question of nationalization of transport. This divergence is due to the personal interests of some people. If the Government had accepted the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee, it could have levied tax at the rate of two pies per anna instead of one pie and the Transport Department alone would have yielded revenue of seventy lakhs of rupees. In that case the saying that 'magic wand of ownership turns sand into gold' would not have been ignored and at the same time the transport operators could be prevented from feeling the public. The Government could charge a tax of two pies per mile and permit the operators to retain five pies per mile. In addition to revenues, it would have secured for the Government the co-operation of a large number of transport operators.

Now, Sir, I come to the dangerous subject of the water rate. We are working Bhakra Dam Project on which an estimated expenditure of Rs. 197 crores is to be incurred. Mr. Slocum has arrived to assist us in this work. He is a renowned and experienced engineer and thoroughly understands the work of construction of dams. We have to look at the question of expenditure involved in the completion of Bhakra Project. It is very likely that by the time the Project is completed in 1957, the expenditure might amount to Rs. 200 crores. As all this expenditure will be out of the borrowed money, we have to pay interest on it at the rate of three or four per cent. We are already paying about Rs. 5 crores as interest, not out of our revenues but from the amount raised by loans. If the huge sum of Rs. 200 crores is properly used, it can lead to permanent prosperity of the State. If we do not spend money carefully, our State will remain bankrupt for ever. Money has to be found for carrying on beneficial schemes. In some cases immediate results cannot be expected. Joginder Nagar Electricity Project yielded no revenues for some time and remained a white elephant for four or five years. It is the duty of the Government to find funds for beneficial schemes and it has taken a very wise step in increasing the water rate. If water rate is reduced, the revenues of the State will fall. Moreover, the increase does not affect the entire population of 126 lakhs. Hardly thirty per cent people own lands which are irrigated by canals. The number of persons who have to pay increased water rate is not more than ninety thousand. Moreover, these persons have sufficient incomes. This increase of fifty per cent was effected on the water-rate which was fixed at a time when wheat was sold at the rate of thirty seers for a rupee and gur was available at rupees 1-12-0 per maund.

To those hon. Members who take exception to the enhancement of the rate of abiana I would submit that if the total expenditure being incurred by the Government on various irrigation works, large or small, is calculated and spread over the entire irrigated area in the State it will be found that this expenditure per acre of irrigated land exceeds the abiana charged per acre even at the enhanced rate. I am in perfect agreement with those who want the additional revenues accruing as a result of the enhancement of abiana to be spent for providing amenities such as medical aid, education, etc., to the people living in villages. The rate of abiana was not enhanced without the fullest possible discussion of the subject in the Resources and Retrenchment Committees—I say Committees deliberately because when some friends were not satisfied

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with the decision of the first Resources and Retrenchment Committee a second had to be formed for this purpose. I was a member of that Committee also.

Minister for Development : Please tell the names of other Members also.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : At the moment I cannot recollect all the names. Well Sir, the alternatives before the Committee were either to suggest ways and means to effect economy in expenditure to the extent of Rs. 62 lakhs or to find additional sources of revenue expected to yield that much income. Since the Committee found itself unable to suggest ways of effecting sufficient economy in expenditure it had to address itself to the task of tapping new sources of revenue. But here again it could not succeed. So it was decided to raise the water rate and I personally even now find nothing objectionable against it. Supplying of water for irrigation purposes is after all for Government a commercial proposition. Zamindars are, in this matter, no better than ordinary customers. If my Friends opposite are neither willing to pay agricultural income-tax nor any other tax how is the Government going to run the Administration? May I ask Ch. Sri Chand if he has no objection to the levy of tax on agricultural income? The question of increase in the rate of abiana also came up before the High Command.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not bring in the High Command and wind up.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Kindly allow me to speak for a few minutes more. Sir, the financial position of our State is none too sound. Our resources are limited. Our balances are fast depleting. Every year we have to pay a huge sum of Rs. 3 to 4 crores in the form of interest on the moneys loaned to us to finance the Bhakra Nangal Projects. If this state of affairs continues and we are not allowed to tap any new sources of revenue, I am afraid it will not be possible for us to save this State from bankruptcy for very long.

Sir, I feel it is high time we shelved our differences and made a united effort to save our province from impending insolvency. I would appeal to the hon. Ministers, hon. Members of this House and the services to act upon the maxim 'take care of the pie and the rupee will take care of itself.' I want everybody's financial conscience to be aroused so that not a single pie belonging to the Exchequer goes waste.

In the end, Sir, I would like to make a brief reference to the ugly situation that has arisen for the first time in the history of Simla as a result of the tactlessness of one officer.

M. Speaker : No please. I cannot allow you any more time.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi) : Sir, there are no two better known facts about India than that, firstly, it is an agricultural country and secondly, it is a poor country. Eighty per cent of the population of our country is dependent on land for its livelihood. Sir, ever since we got Independence—I would call it ruination—our country has been experiencing unprecedented shortage of foodgrains. Since the year 1947 we have been importing foodgrains from foreign countries to feed our teeming millions. About twenty lakh tons of foodgrains were imported in 1947, thirty seven lakh tons in 1949 and so on. This year we hear the Government of India proposes to import fifty to sixty lakh tons of foodgrains at a cost of Rs. 250 to 300 crores. This means, Sir, that money equal to more than half of the total annual revenues of the Government of India goes out of this country every year in the form of the cost of imported foodgrains.

Mr. Speaker : Please confine your discussion to the Punjab only.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, what I am saying has a very close connection with the State of Punjab. If the Government of India instead of paying so much money to the producers of foreign countries encourages the peasants of this State by giving them subsidies, etc., I am sure we can meet the demands of all the deficit States of India and help usher in an era of prosperity and plenty in our country. As the things at present are the money which we could spend on importing the badly needed capital machinery required for the industrialisation of our country, is being spent on this unproductive business of importing foodgrains. The foreign exchange resources that we are now wasting on the import of food can very well serve the purpose of importing necessary machinery from foreign countries and starting industries to provide work for millions of our unemployed workers. I would, therefore, stress the need of urging upon the Central Government not to reduce the financial assistance that was being given to our State in connection with the Grow More Food campaign.

Sir, the provision for the Grow More Food Schemes has been reduced to one crore and seventy-six lakhs as against two crores and forty one lakhs for the last year. The hon. Minister for Finance has remarked in his Budget speech that curtailment in the activity of Government in

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respect of Grow More Food Schemes has been necessary as the subsidy which we used to get previously has now been discontinued by the Central Government. The subsidy to the growers in respect of digging of wells has also been stopped. In this connection I may submit that in Pepsu this subsidy is given to the Zamindars for digging wells on a certain fixed basis but it is no longer given in our State. The Government would have been well advised if it had spared adequate funds for the sinking of wells in the rural areas. This Government which claims to safeguard the interests of the rural people should give tangible proof of it by releasing ample funds for financing welfare schemes in the rural areas. Mere promises and platitudes cannot help the poor peasants. What we actually find is that the amount of grant in respect of the Grow More Food Schemes has been curtailed. The reason for this is too obvious to be stated. It shows that the Government is neglectful and callous towards the interests of the rural classes. When we point out these things to the Government it takes shelter behind the plea that the Central Government has stopped giving subsidy to this State. But such a plea is groundless and I can only attribute it to the weak-kneed policy of our Ministers who cannot get their just and legitimate demands conceded by the Central Government. I would go to the length of saying that they have no voice in the Government of India and meekly submit to whatever it says. That is why that Government is according a step-motherly treatment to our State.

Minister for Public Works : The Central Government has already been generous to place 22 crores of rupees at our disposal. What else could it do ?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Our Government should make an insistent demand for the release of more funds and spend it on the welfare schemes in the rural areas. If we look to the Budget we will find that the provision for Ammonium Sulphate has been reduced to 6 lakhs as against 20 lakhs provided last year. We also see that provision in respect of the Grow More Food Schemes has been substantially reduced. So far as the Revenue Receipts are concerned it will be seen that as compared with last year there is a drop of Rs. 4 lakhs in the receipts of income-tax. But on the other hand an increase of rupees two lakhs is visualised on account of the sale of stamps which income is mostly realised from the rural areas.

Turning now to the expenditure side, the Government propose to spend Rs. eight lakhs more this year on Education. By making this increa-

sed provision, the Government should provide more educational facilities by opening more primary schools in the State but I would frankly say that this increased provision on Education would largely be utilised in meeting the Establishment Charges. Besides this, the Government has been generous in allocating rupees 7 lakhs more for the Medical Department. With this increased expenditure the Government propose to provincialise 27 hospitals. It would have been more desirable if the Government had realised the urgency of opening more hospitals in the country side to alleviate the sufferings of the people who stand in urgent need of medical aid. In addition to this the Government propose to spend 8 lakhs on Panchayats. Some time back the Government had promised that in case the rural people could collect money for the improvement of sanitation in villages it would contribute 75 per cent towards the expenditure for this purpose but that promise still remains unfulfilled. They have made a provision of rupees eight lakhs only towards this fund and have only promised to pay the remaining amount of rupees 29½ lakhs for rural sanitation. There being 16,000 villages in the State the sanitation grant per village comes to Rs. 5 only. Moreover, the Government has not made any provision in the Budget for small scale or cottage industries to help the carpenters, cobblers etc., while on the other hand Industrial Finance Corporation is proposed to be set up to help finance schemes of industrial development. The Government has allocated the sum of Rs. 30,000 to set up six labour welfare centres in Industrial areas for amenities such as reading rooms, libraries, indoor games etc., for labourers and sewing and charkha classes for their families. The condition of labourers who work in factories in big cities is far far better than that of the labourers in villages and if any of them is removed from service all the workers go on strike. They have united actions and united policies. Their united voice can shake the very foundation of the Government. But has the Government ever thought of the hard lot of the labourers in villages who continue to lead a life of misery and distress? They are wallowing in poverty and are completely forgotten and left to their fate.

Some time back our Chief Minister Shri Bhim Sen Sacher in a public speech emphatically remarked that the welfare of the rural people will be uppermost in his mind. But I am sorry to say that his solicitude for the welfare of the rural people is not in evidence in the Budget. Even during the British regime the Unionist Ministry had espoused the cause of Zamindars better than the present Government. There used to be the Peasant Welfare Fund but now the Government does not make any contribution to such funds for the welfare of the Zamindars.

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

Now we can well judge from the Budget presented by our Government what relief and amenities have been provided to the people living in the rural areas. All the promises which were held out to them have remained merely the expression of a pious wish. This Budget is a stereotyped Budget and is meant to promote the interests of the urbanites. The Government do not deserve to be congratulated on the presentation of such a Budget. If this is the state of affairs we will not be able to see the Punjab of our dreams for many years to come. Such a dream will in fact never materialise. We find now-a-days that the financial position of every Punjabi is going from bad to worse. Most of them are under heavy debts. The Government cannot feed them on promises for all time. I am visualising that the time is not far off when the people in their utter disappointment and frustration will be compelled to raise a banner of revolt against the Government. Our Government will then have to move down from the heights of Simla to restore law and order. It is high time that the Government realised that it is treading upon a dangerous path. They are creating disputes among the tenants and the landlords. They will not be doing any real service to the State by adopting such methods. They should take up the work of nationalisation of industries and Cinemas. I do not understand why the Government has thought it fit to postpone the process of nationalisation of industries for a period of ten years. In the end, I would warn the Government that if it does not abandon its indifference towards the Zamindars and continues to trifle with their interests it may arouse in them a spirit of revolt against the Government and such a situation would prove pivotal in the establishment of communism in our country.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I was pained to turn over the pages of the Budget when I came to know that an increase of Rs. 5 only has been made upto a salary of Rs. 100. This is a very poor consolation to the lower staff since no substantial benefit would accrue from it. Clerks, peons and police constables draw less than Rs. 100. A police constable is a 24 hours Government servant, but his pay is very meagre when compared with the work he is required to do. A peon is sometimes asked to go to his officer's bungalow even after office hours. Similarly, a clerk starts to his office at 8 A. M. in the morning and reaches there before any officer comes. Sometimes he has to work from morning till late in the evening and thus is a pivot round which the whole official machinery moves. Even the success of big officers depends on the efficiency of the clerks. The increase of Rs. 5 made by the Government is not at all sufficient. Under the present circumstances, an increase

of at least Rs. 15 should have been made instead of that of Rs. 5 to give some relief to subordinate Government servants. I was told by a Chaprasi that they get only Rs. 15 as Hill Allowance. A poor man having 4 to 5 mouths to feed cannot make both ends meet within this small pay at such an expensive hill station. Poor clerks and the constables also sail in the same boat. A police constable, to a great extent, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the country. My hon. Friend Gyani Rajinder Singh has already stated that they have been given a very poor increase. Our Minister for Finance says that all-out efforts are being made by the Government to help the poor people. But, it is not a fact. May I refresh the memory of the hon. Members and the Ministers that before the elections they held out hopes to the poor people? I, therefore, invite their pointed attention, through you, Sir, to this matter of great importance and request that the subordinate Government servants should be given at least an increase of Rs. 15 instead of Rs. 5 to enable them to make both ends meet. If the Government consider that sufficient funds are not available for this purpose, I would request them to cut down the fat salaries of those officers who draw from Rs. 2,000 to 4,000 a month. There is hardly any officer who comes at right time to the office and yet nobody cares. A clerk who comes to the office at exact 10 A. M., rather before that should be permitted to leave office at exact 4 P. M. and should not be made to sit late. In view of the fact, I would appeal to all the hon. Members in the name of human sympathy to spare their salaries for the amelioration of the lot of these poor people. If nobody else is willing to do so, I would be the first man to spend my salary and travelling allowance for this noble deed (*Cheers*).

Sir, when I go to my village, many people bring their complaints to me and I give them a patient hearing irrespective of their caste and creed. Depressed classes are not given a fair treatment by the other people. They are forced to do *begar* by the Police Officers, in the shape of fetching fodder for their cattle. This is not all. Sir, whenever they find an opportunity they molest the womenfolk of these poor people. A case falling within the purview of Section 376 Indian Penal Code was committed in my *Ilaqa*.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not discuss any case on the floor of the House.

Sardar Khem Singh : All right, Sir. Once I went to Majitha Police Station. The Sub-Inspector of that Police Station Sardar.....

Mr. Speaker : No name please.

Sardar Khem Singh : I was submitting, Sir, that the Sub-Inspector Incharge is an honest man and takes pains in the discharge of his duties. Consequently, peace and tranquillity prevail in that Ilaqa. The Sub-Inspector has full sympathy with the poor people.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member to please sit down ?

Sardar Khem Singh : Sir, I was submitting that I went to Majitha Thana.

Mr. Speaker : I have already asked the hon. Member not to mention the name of any place or person. If he has got any complaint against anybody he should make a representation about it.

An hon. Member : Sir, he is only praising the work of the Sub-Inspector. Yesterday, our Minister for Finance was praising the work of Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, in a similar way.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Well, Sir, if we are not allowed to name anybody here what is the use of our sitting in this House ?

Minister for Development : I wish to inform the hon. Members through you, Sir, that they are at liberty to expose any Government official on the floor of this House but while doing so they should only give his official status and not his name.

Sardar Khem Singh : Then, Sir, cases of members of the Scheduled Castes are sent up for trial to the Courts and when it comes to the notice of the Magistrates that the complainant is a member of the Scheduled Caste, the cases are filed and the accused are dis-charged. Out of all the local Magistrates working in Amritsar, only the A. D. M. Amritsar is sympathetic towards the members of the Scheduled Castes and helps them.

Now, I shall place before you, Sir, a general complaint of our community regarding the treatment extended to us by the authorities of the Civil Hospital, Amritsar. Usually, it is the poor people who cannot afford to pay fees to doctors who go to the hospitals for treatment while the rich people rarely go to hospitals, since they prefer to call the doctors to their houses on payment of fees. But you will be surprised to know that at the Civil Hospital, Amritsar, the poor people are refused admission and well-to-do persons are given preference. Only those persons are given admissions in the hospital who are able to pay fees to the doctors. Sometimes it has been seen, that the poor women are treated very shabbily.

Mr. Speaker : In case all these things are based on facts, then you can make a complaint in writing to the hon. Minister incharge.

Sardar Khem Singh : Sir, these are all facts. Only those persons are admitted to the hospital who are able to pay Rs. 16 as fee to the doctor incharge. Sir, one day, in my very presence, a poor man was refused admission there, but after some time he was admitted. On enquiries from the person concerned it was learnt that he was admitted because he had bribed the official incharge of the ward. Sir, such is the state of affairs there and such things are being done by the doctors in every Government hospital. They admit patients in the Hospitals only after they have been paid Rs. 16 as their fee. Doctors in Government Service should not be permitted to charge fees, since they are tempted to misuse their duty hours.

Same is the case in the schools. The poor students are not admitted by the Head Masters on the plea of want of accommodation. At village Jantipura, there is only one primary school where scheduled caste children are able to get education. I request the hon. Minister for Education to take steps to provide books and other articles of stationery to these poor students since they cannot afford to purchase them. By doing so he would be encouraging these people and doing a great service to the scheduled castes.

There is no high school in that Ilqa and the children are facing a great difficulty in its absence. They have to walk long distances for getting high school education. The Government should open a high school there. The people of that place have already purchased land for this purpose and the Government will not have to spend much.

I also want to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to the fact that the Mazhabi Sikhs and other Scheduled Caste candidates are not being given any concession by the local boards in the matter of recruitment to posts falling vacant in the Civil Supplies Department. With these words, Sir, I take my seat and again request the hon. Ministers to pay more attention to the grievances of the scheduled castes.

Shri Rizaq Ram (Rai) (Hindi): Sir, today many aspects of the Budget have been discussed. But some others aspects yet remain to be discussed. Members from both sides of the House have expressed themselves about it. I would now place before you two or three points of view regarding this Budget.

[Shri Rizaq Ram]

Our Government has done well in increasing the allowances of the low paid servants. This is one of the good things done by the Government. Now we have to see, Sir, whether any provision has been made in the Budget for the betterment of the lot of the poor classes. This is important particularly because this is the first Budget prepared by the Cabinet of the representatives elected under the new constitution.

Shri Ranjit Singh : On a point of order, Sir, I want to draw your attention to the fact that the hon. Member is speaking and none of the hon. Ministers is in his seat.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Eight Ministers have already been appointed and now they have gone to appoint the ninth.

Shri Rizaq Ram : Now, the primary thing in the good Budget of a State in free India under the new Constitution, is how far it goes to remove the poverty of the masses. The standard of a Budget has to be judged by the amounts provided in it for the betterment of the general public and the poor population.

Sir, another aspect to be considered is whether the new taxes proposed in the Budget affect the poor or the rich. In the present Budget the rich people have not been touched at all.

The third important thing is the amount of expenditure on the beneficent departments. In my opinion expenditure on this side is not what it should be. It does not satisfy the needs of the people. While these important departments have been starved, more than necessary amounts of money have been earmarked for the General Administration and the Police. So far as police is concerned, a sum of rupees two crores and seventy three lakhs has been provided for it in the Budget. I do not deny the necessity of maintaining a proper and adequate police force in the State. As a matter of fact it is essential for the maintenance of law and order, but I beg to emphasize that certain fundamental and basic principles of good administration should not be lost sight of. We have to realise that even a confirmed criminal can be brought back to the right path if we try to understand the psychology at the back of all crime and find out ways and means of educating him on proper lines. It has been found out by analysts that every mind, howsoever, perverted, can be set right. The history of the world provides us with numerous examples which prove this. I submit, Sir, that the author of the Budget

has not realised the fundamental aspect of corrigibility of a human mind through proper education. No provision has been made for correcting criminal's minds by imparting the right type of education to them after analysing the peculiarities of individual brains. It is the first Budget of the State after free elections on a wide franchise. But I regret to note that it does not come upto the expectations of the people. Greater importance should have been given in it to matters like education, beneficent works etc., so that after a short while there should have been no necessity of keeping a large police force, numerous law courts, big jails etc. The huge sums which the Government is spending on jails police, and law courts can easily be saved if we take proper measures to remove ignorance and poverty. At present the main problems of the people are food, clothing and housing. These should be immediately solved. It is regrettable that in the Budget little attention seems to have been paid to their solution. The conditions in the villages are most miserable. Petty farmers and Harijans are starving. Their main problem is to find means of livelihood and food for themselves and their children. During the elections the main promise held out by us to the people was to provide them with means of earning their livelihood and to eradicate poverty. But so far we have not been able to take any steps towards removing their distress. There is nothing in this Budget to show that we are doing something towards that end. The hon. Finance Minister cannot realize the difficulties which the poor people in the villages have to face daily. How can he do so? He has entered the Legislature by an indirect election. It is difficult for him to feel the pulse of the people. At many places more than fifteen persons are huddled together in one house without any food to eat and clothes to wear. The state of affairs is very disgusting but those who have fine clothes to wear and delicious dishes to eat cannot know the difficulties which these people have to face. The Finance Minister has made a provision of two crores of rupees for the benefit of the industrialists. But nothing has been done for providing work to village landless labourers and artisans. All hopes raised in them during the elections seem to have been belied. People come to us and ask us to provide them with means to earn their livelihood but we are unable to do anything for them. We cannot say that this Budget is a poor man's Budget. It does not try to solve the financial problems of the poor. Whatever little has been proposed is of such a nature that eventually it will benefit the rich only. There are some schemes which may be called good but they seem to have been

[Shri Rizaq Ram]

adopted only half-heartedly. For instance, nationalisation of transport seems to have been undertaken by the Government simply as an eye-wash and not with the urgency of the hour in mind. It is just like a dull boy interested in play, holding the book in front of him because he is afraid of the teacher's rod. Our Government does not think it necessary to nationalize large factories and mills of the capitalists. It is nationalizing small items like transport and text-books only, in order to stop the criticism of other parties by showing that it is in earnest about nationalization. In my opinion if the Government is really keen about nationalization, then it should embark upon a solid, definite programme of work and take up nationalisation of big concerns including Banks and Insurance Companies. The money thus obtained can be utilised for development work and for ameliorating the lot of the suffering millions.

Sir, whenever we request the Government to adopt measures for beneficent purposes by providing more money in the Budget, it always puts forward the plea of financial stringency. I am of the opinion that there is no lack of funds ; it is the will that is lacking. I feel that we have enough money to ameliorate the hard lot of the poor people. I ask, why should we undertake those responsibilities which should actually devolve on the Government of India ? Why should we spend from our own coffers to meet those responsibilities ? It is the duty of the Government of India to bear such expenditure. I would request the Government to impress upon the Centre to pay for those functions which we are performing on its behalf. If that is done, I am sure, we will be able to effect a lot of saving in our Budget and that money can be utilised for the betterment of the masses.

Then there is another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government. It is a pity that the Government has stopped the financial help which it used to give to the peasants in the form of taccavi for the purpose of sinking wells.

Mr. Speaker : A point has been raised whether hon. Members can, during the course of their speeches, refer to or say something about Government Officers. I have given careful thought and consideration to this point and have arrived at the conclusion that the practice followed in this House so far, namely, any reference to the Government Officers or their conduct should not be made, is a wholesome practice. Rule 79 (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative

Assembly clearly lays down :—

“ A Member while speaking shall not.....

(i) reflect upon the conduct of persons in authority.....

(ii) utter treasonable, or defamatory words or make use of offensive expressions.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : The point is what does a person in authority mean, whether this expression covers all officials of the State however petty they may be or some special class. The matter will require your reconsideration because this will go a long way to curb the speeches of the hon. Members. I request that the matter may be kept open and it should be properly thrashed before arriving at any conclusion.

Mr. Speaker : I have no objection to this and I would like to have the considered views and advice of the legal pundits on this point. I am, however, inclined to hold that we should follow the old practice and refrain from making any references to Government officers, because such persons cannot defend themselves when adverse remarks are made about them.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh (Moga Dharmkot) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, a good many speeches have been made on the Budget. I am constrained to remark that nothing tangible has been done nor any substantial provision has been made in the Budget for the betterment of my community. It goes without saying that the scheduled castes and other low castes have done a lot for the attainment of India's freedom. They cast their votes for the Congress in the hope that it will do something to uplift them. But I regret to say that our hopes have been belied and the Congress Government has failed to improve the hard lot of the poor Harijans. No measures have been adopted to liquidate illiteracy from amongst the Harijans. I may point out that they are so poor that they cannot afford to send their children to schools as they cannot pay their fees. Government have made a provision for the award of a few scholarships to Harijans entering the ninth class. But the difficulty is that not even a few can manage to reach the ninth class. When the Harijan students have no means to even enter the schools, how can they enter the 9th class to enjoy or take advantage of the scholarships reserved for them by the Government? Even if some Harijan children manage to reach that stage, their number hardly exceeds 2 or 3 per cent. I, therefore, request the Government that the scholarships which it has reserved for Harijan students from the 9th class, should be given to them from the first primary class. Not only this. The Harijan students should be sup-

[Sardar Mukhtiar Singh]

plied with books and other reading and writing material by the Government free of charge from the very first class of the school. If the Government fails to ameliorate the condition of the Harijans, then all its tall talk about introducing social or other reforms is of no use.

Sir, I was pleased to hear the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon declaring that they would not barter away their freedom for the help they would be receiving from a foreign country in connection with the execution of Community Projects. It was gratifying to note the hon. Minister for Revenue's remark that they would give a battle royal, if any foreign country had bad designs against India. I may assure him that even though we are in the Opposition, we shall be in the forefront if and when any such occasion arises. But if the Government fails in its duty, then we may even have to fight this Government (*Cheers*).

Then, Sir, sometime back the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Minister for Development toured the district of Ferozepore. They delivered speeches at Bagha Purana. But what was the effect of these speeches? The President of the District Committee, S. Thaman Singh, took upon himself the responsibility of giving protection to all sorts of bad characters.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not allowed to make such statements. He should avoid making such references.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh : Then the hon. Minister for Development told us that 70 per cent of the water in the canals was provided to the zamindars. I join issue with him on this point. I think that this water remains in the rivers or canals and does not reach the zamindars. The reason is that the outlets (*mogas*) provided by the Government are not sufficiently wide. They are only 6" x 6" and the discharge of water is extremely low. I wonder where the water mentioned by him goes? I am of the opinion that every inch of our lands should be irrigated but the difficulty is that the water for this purpose is not available anywhere. The result is that great difficulty is being experienced by the zamindar in sowing his crops. I would request the hon. Minister to get a thorough enquiry made as to where that water goes.

Then, Sir, we feel very much concerned over the new canals which are going to be opened under the Bhakra Dam Scheme. The reason is that the Irrigation Engineers working in our ilaqa are not doing satisfactory work. If it is left to them to run these canals, then it will be no wonder if we are ruined.

The bridges on the new canals have been washed away by floods because the engineers had not used suitable material in their construction. The loss on this account should be recovered from the engineers whose negligence was responsible for it. The hon. Minister should hold an enquiry to find out the cause of such carelessness. When taccavi loans for the digging of tube-wells were advanced to the zamindars they were told that the Government would recover only half the amount. Now, however, the whole amount is being recovered and this is causing great hardship to the zamindars.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that the Moga Municipal Committee had decided to send one of its Harijan employees, who was suffering from tuberculosis to the hills. Later on the son of a rich man fell ill and he was sent to the hills instead of the Harijan boy. Enquiry should be ordered into this matter, and if what I have stated proves to be true, the Harijan boy should be sent to some hill station.

Then, Sir, drain water is flowing in the streets of Dharamkot. The Government had advanced a considerable sum of money to the Municipal Committee for the construction of drains but a dispute is going on between the Committee and the Harijans and drains are not being constructed. The Government should order an enquiry into this matter so that the difficulties of the people may be removed.

In the end, Sir, I hope that I shall be allowed to speak for a few minutes tomorrow also.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (Hindi) : Sir, I offer my hearty congratulations to the hon. Minister for Finance for the Budget presented by him. If we compare our Budget with that of the Central Government, we will find that whereas the Central Budget was surplus we have a deficit Budget. The deficit in our Budget is due to the fact that our Ministers have realised the necessity of spending the maximum amount possible on the beneficent departments. They could not avoid such expenditure under the present circumstances.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : Sir, we are unable to understand the hon. Member's speech. He should kindly speak in a language which is understood by all.

Mr. Speaker : If our Deputy Speaker cannot understand the hon. Member's speech, it is very difficult for others to follow it. The hon. Member should kindly either undertake to paraphrase his speech into simple language or use such words as can be understood by all.

Shri Rala Ram : I am trying to speak in simple Hindi and if I use any difficult word, I shall translate it. In our Budget.....

Sardar Rajinder Singh Gyani : Sir, we require an interpreter to understand this speech.

Shri Teg Ram : On a point of order, Sir. There are about one dozen Members in this House who do not know English. If they did not object to speeches being delivered in English there is no reason why Shri Rala Ram's speech in Hindi be not tolerated.

Hon. Members : Not a single speech has been delivered in English, so far.

Mr. Speaker : What is the point of order in it? Nobody has said that he cannot tolerate the speech. The hon. Members have simply requested that only such language should be employed as could be easily understood by them. If the hon. Member insists on using difficult language, he has a right to do so. In that case other hon. Members will not be able to understand or benefit from his speech. There is no question of not tolerating the hon. Member's speech.

Minister for Local Government : On a point of order, Sir. If an hon. Member speaks in Hindi, Punjabi or English but some Members cannot understand it, are they entitled to demand its translation or paraphrase ?

Mr. Speaker : It was only a request that the hon. Member should use the word कोशिश instead of प्रयत्न.

Minister for Local Government : On a point of order, Sir. Can it be demanded that instead of the word 'try', the word कोशिश should be used ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members are at liberty to use any kind of words they like. They cannot be compelled to use simple words, if they do not like to do so.

Shri Rala Ram : I was submitting, Sir, that while the Central Government prepared a surplus Budget. Our Ministry had presented a deficit Budget. This deficit is due to the fact that our Government realises the necessity of spending the maximum amount of money on the beneficent departments. This shows the farsightedness of our hon. Minister for Finance and I congratulate him on this Budget. This is a truly democratic Budget because the interests of the general public have been fully kept in view. At the same time we cannot ignore the fact

that the Budget of my State should not be allowed to remain deficit. The Government should immediately explore and tap other sources of revenue. If the deficit is not covered by revenues from other sources, the result would be that we shall not be able to check inflation and the resultant increase in prices. Inflation is the result of a larger flow of currency and every attempt should be made to check it. I shall, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Finance not to leave the deficit of Rs. 31 lakhs uncovered. He must make up this deficit by effecting the necessary economies.

I admit, Sir, that in the conditions prevalent to day, it is not possible to levy new taxes on the people of this State. Still the need for making up the deficit in the Budget cannot be over-emphasised. So if for the present fresh taxation cannot be resorted to for this purpose, economy and retrenchment have more and more to be resorted to. And there are not a few departments of the Government where there is ample scope for economy ; and not the least of those notorious for wastage of public funds is the Public Works Department which has rightly been called by Shri Rajagopalacharia as his enemy No. 2. Whenever I happen to think of this department, the gloomy picture of houses built by it in Hoshiarpur Model Township with their roofs collapsing in the first rainy season and wood used on doors and windows being eaten away within six months after their construction conjures up before my mind's eye.

What I want to stress is that by taking suitable measures for economy and avoiding wasteful expenditure in various departments, the existing budgetary deficit can easily be made good. Let us take for instance the money provided by the Education Department for construction of new hostels, college buildings or laboratories, it runs into lakhs. Here in these items there is enough scope for saving money. I say this from personal experience. If managements of private colleges can build college hostels and laboratories at less expense, why cannot the Government Departments ? Never has the management of a private college spent Rs. 6 lakhs on the construction of a hostel or Rs. 15 lakhs on a laboratory, though I find such amounts provided in the Budget for similar purposes. I think enough saving can be effected under these items alone. It is the foremost duty of the Finance Minister to stop immediately all unnecessary and wasteful expenditure wherever he notices it and at the same time be on the look out for fresh sources of revenue. His vigilance in these matters will not only help him to present a balanced Budget but also to provide more money for the beneficent departments.

[Shri Rala Ram]

Sir, it is a thousand pities that while western countries such as Britain, U.S.A. and Russia are spending 25 to 40 per cent of their budgetary funds on beneficent departments, we are providing no more than 8.5 per cent of the total budget for education—a department whose value and importance in a backward country like ours hardly needs any emphasis. If we want the common man to feel the glow of freedom, we cannot spend too much on such departments of public welfare as education. The amount that has been provided for these purposes in this Budget is not such as can be referred to by us with pride.

While I congratulate the Government on not making any provisions for opening any more Arts Colleges I am not happy to find that no technical institution has been provided for either. In a country where unemployment, even among the educated people is rampant, there cannot be two opinions on the need for imparting technical education to the young men to enable them to earn a living. Time at my disposal being short, I would confine myself to saying that the Government must pay due attention to this aspect of education.

In the end, I would suggest the abolition in future Budgets of the appellation 'vernacular teachers' because the word 'vernacular' connotes 'language of slaves' and is, therefore, derogatory.

Its use is galling and injures our self respect. In future these teachers should be designated as teachers of modern Indian languages. Stressing again that more money should be allocated for beneficent departments without taking recourse to deficit financing so that we may be able to convince the people of our bonafides, I resume my seat.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have risen to voice the complaints and grievances of that section of the people to whom a promise of amelioration of their lot and removal of their difficulties and hardships was given by all parties during the elections. On going through the Budget, we find that no measure for the uplift of the backward classes is proposed to be undertaken during the current year. On the other hand the burden of most of the taxes is to fall on them as usual.

Sir, instead of reducing the burden of taxes on the poor this national Government has added so much to it that they are being crushed under its weight. It has increased incidence of professional tax, enhanced the rate of Abiana and imposed a tax even on carrying of cow dung by widows in villages.

Then, Sir, unemployment is on the increase. Even educated young men are being driven from pillar to post and find it impossible to get a job of Rs. 50 p.m. Where are the promises of our Government to give 15 per cent share to the Scheduled Castes in services? How many persons belonging to these classes have been given jobs in the various departments of the Government? I think the reply must be 'nil'

The atrocities that the Police used to perpetrate on these poor people continue unabated. On very flimsy excuses they are challaned and put behind the bars. Section 109 Criminal Procedure Code is a convenient handle with the police to harass them. If the real criminals manage to escape, persons belonging to these backward classes are substituted and sent for trial to the courts. We are surprised to find that our Government has made a larger provision for the Police Department this year.

I would ask the Government what steps it has taken to impart education to the Harijans? Their children cannot get education because of the fact that they are poor and cannot afford to meet the expenses of education of their children. At the most what they can do is to give education to their one son only and that too up to the primary standard. Their difficulty is that the Government do not provide any facilities to them. It is true that the Government grant scholarships to them but those scholarships are admissible to the students who study in colleges. The hon. Minister for Finance has remarked that in pursuance of the policy of giving free primary education to backward classes of the population, a very much larger provision has been made during the current year than was done previously. As against Rs. 1½ lakhs sanctioned for this purpose in the past, a provision of Rs. 5½ lakhs is being sanctioned this year. If we make a close examination of this amount we will find that each district will get Rs. 42,307/11/1. Then there are about 1,000 villages in each district and each village would get only Rs. 42/4/10 and further if calculation is made for each month it will amount to Rs. 3/8/4. With this detailed account the hon. Members may themselves judge the inadequacy of the amount which has been provided in the Budget for free primary education to the backward classes.

So far as the displaced persons are concerned, they were allotted houses and land to rehabilitate themselves but the poor Harijans have been ejected from the land which they had occupied. It shows that discriminatory treatment is meted out to the Harijans. The rich people have been able to get fertile land for themselves by greasing the palms of the officers but the poor Harijans have got land of poor quality. The houses allotted

[Sardar Darshan Singh]

to Harjans are in a dilapidated condition and they cannot even carry out the repairs for non-availability of bricks. Besides this, there are no shamilat lands in villages and these people have to face great difficulty for keeping manure for themselves. I may also mention here that when the zamindars apply for the consolidation of their land holdings the Government used to get Rs. 2/- per acre but now the Government is charging Rs. 4/- per acre from the zamindars. If the Government really want to raise the status of Harijans it should bring a measure for the abolition of the zamindari system.

The professional tax which has been imposed upon the Harijans should also be withdrawn. The Government should also take steps to ensure that they are given their share of 15 per cent of the posts in the Government Departments. The Government should give them land and remove all their difficulties if it really wants to uplift the people of backward classes

Shri Samar Singh (Garaunda) (Punjabi) : Sir, during the last general elections we gave promise to the people that if the Congress came out victorious it will do its best to ameliorate the lot of the people living in the rural areas. Moreover, our hon. Chief Minister in his public speeches also used to say that our country cannot make any appreciable progress unless we try to uplift the villagers. This he repeated not once but many times in his public speeches. It is our good luck that our Deputy Leader Sardar Partap Singh hails from a village and also that some of the Ministers are ruralites.

I remember there was a time when the Congress used to raise slogan of 'Inqilab Zinda Bad' during the pre-independence days and it has cried itself hoarse shouting this for the last fifty years. But now when destiny has lifted India out of the ruts of slavery and in this election the Congress has been able to capture seats in an overwhelming majority everybody expects that the Government will now address itself seriously to the task of improving the lot of the villagers. I know that the Congress Leaders also use to proclaim at the top of their voice that the peasants are the back-bone of society and the firmest basis of our State and that we cannot march on the road of progress unless we improve the condition of the villagers. These leaders used to quote Gandhiji when he said that India lives in her villages, not in her cities. If the village perishes, India perishes too. On the strength of these promises we had entertained great

hopes that our Government will have keen and close appreciation of our problems.

Sometimes back we approached the hon. Ministers with the request that they should do something for the economic and social welfare of these people. They, time and again, asked us to wait till the Budget Session as if it was an 'Amritdhara' which will prove a panacea for all our ills. But what do we find today? I feel sorely disappointed at the Government not having done anything to discharge their responsibility towards the people belonging to the rural areas. There is nothing of outstanding importance in the Budget and it has been prepared on the same old lines. However, when I studied the Budget I found two or three items which gave me a glimpse of hope for the well-being of the State in the future but that hope too very soon drifted into the background. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Government derives a major portion of its revenue receipts from villages but that amount is spent on the welfare of the urbanites. There is no high school in any of the villages in fact not even within the radius of 20 miles of any of them. On the other hand, if any school in any town is closed there is a storm of agitation against it. It shows that the Government is indifferent to the welfare of the people living in the rural areas. There are no hospitals in the villages. The villagers cannot afford to call in doctors from the town. The result is that many of them die for want of proper medical treatment. To crown it all, life is becoming intolerable for these poor folk in the villages and yet the Government do not pay any heed to it. During the British regime the late Sir Chhotu Ram wrote a book entitled 'Bechara Zamindar'. He depicted therein in graphic details the miserable plight of the zamindars. He brought about a real 'inqilab' for the zamindars and gave them an honoured place in society.

Then, Sir, I may point out that Sir Chhotu Ram was not only responsible for the construction of buildings for schools in some villages, but also for the opening of high schools and colleges in towns. It is no exaggeration to say that he brought about a revolution in the life of the agriculturists, for the amelioration of whose lot he worked day and night. There is no doubt he did a lot for the zamindars but did not do anything for the labouring classes and non-agriculturists.

Sir, it is a matter of surprise that whereas facilities like hospitals, schools, etc. are provided by Government for the people in towns, the same are denied to the village folk. Though the villages situated near the

[Shri Samar Singh]

towns may be able to derive some benefit from such facilities existing in towns villages situated at a distance of 15 or 20 miles from towns are almost deprived of these facilities. Then I find that everything of necessity is available at comparatively cheaper rates in towns. For instance, sugar is being sold in Panipat at -/13/- a seer but when it is brought to a village its price shoots up to Rs. 1/2/- per seer. Then there is another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that is this. There exists a considerable disparity in the rates at which foodgrains are procured under the Procurement Scheme from the villagers and the rates at which they are sold to the people at large under the rationing scheme. Next, the rates of foodgrains prevailing in the rural mandis are much lower than those prevailing in the towns. This disparity must disappear and the rural people should be allowed to have the same amount of profit as is being given by the Arhtias of towns.

Then again the money that is realised from the villagers in the shape of land revenue etc. is not spent for improving their lot. When I turn the pages of the voluminous books placed before us I am pained to see that a provision of Rs. 1,00,000 only has been made for building roads in the rural areas. I would like to state, Sir, that there are hundreds of villages in the Karnal district alone and this paltry sum would not be of any use to the villagers of our State. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the decision taken by the Central Government in the case of the Bombay State, where the Central Government agreed to contribute 1/3 of the amount to be spent on the construction of roads, 1/3 will be paid by the State Government and the remaining 1/3 will be paid by the people of the area where the roads are constructed.

Then about the Grow More Food Scheme. In this connection I would state, Sir, that if a Zamindar gets boring done through the department he has to pay many times more than what he has to spend for sinking a tubewell privately. Then, Sir, village folk are not supplied with electric energy. A thermal plant was installed at Panipat with a view to supplying electricity to villages. But electricity has not been supplied to villagers. On the other hand it has been supplied only to some influential persons. I would, therefore, request the Government to adopt immediate measures to ameliorate the lot of the village folk.

Shri Dev Datt Puri (Jagadhri): Sir, I rise to offer my congratulations to the Finance Minister for the very sound Budget that he has pre-

pared in the extremely short time at his disposal. The Budget has to be judged within the limitations of our resources and under the present circumstances it is inevitably an austerity Budget. The Finance Minister has tried to cut the expenditure to the bone and had also tried to scrounge small savings here and there as was inevitable under the existing circumstances.

Finance, Sir, is not something independent of policy. It is only an expression of it. The policy of the House on the various departments aggregates itself into the annual Budget and the Finance Minister has correctly surmized the views of the House when, even with the extremely meagre resources available to him, he has budgetted for expenditure of Rs. 26 lakhs more, and dearness allowance to the low paid employees. This is extremely heartening and is an excellent start considering our circumstances. Similarly an additional provision of rupees 8 lakhs has been made for the Panchayats and that is a very wholesome feature of the Budget also.

Sir, a major portion of the private capital available for investment in the State was lost at the time of the partition of the country. Lakhs of our brethren who had to leave the areas now constituting Pakistan, left a major portion of their savings there and could bring with them only a very small portion of it, then even those savings have been exhausted by them because they have been living on their savings for the last 4 or 5 years. Therefore, we have been passing through a period when capital formation had come to a standstill. On the other hand it would not be incorrect to state that the private capital available for investment in the State has actually undergone destruction. The contemplated Industrial Finance Corporation, I think, Sir, is a step in the right direction and I have every hope that under the vigilant stewardship of the Finance Minister, this Corporation will function effectively and meet at least a part of the requirements of the State.

I have, Sir, the honour of representing an area which can be termed as an "industrial area". With the paper, starch, engineering, vanaspati and utensil-making factories and with the new industrial township and the new railway workshop, Jagadhri may well aspire to be the industrial capital of the Punjab. It is only natural, therefore, that I should view the present Budget in the light of its effect on the industries of the State. The new tax on passengers and the goods to be carried by road transport by lorries is going to affect the industries in the State in an extremely adverse manner. Sir, I would like to mention here that road transport to-day is playing an extremely important part in bringing raw materials

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to the factories and in carrying the finished products to the market. Rail transport has not even in part recovered from the strain which the last War put on it and therefore, the supply of wagons even today is inadequate, erratic and irregular. This gap has been very successfully filled by road transport both privately owned and publicly owned. The new tax is, therefore, going to hit the industry twice over. It is going to increase the landed cost of the raw materials at the factory sites and it is similarly going to increase the price of the finished products at the market destinations. It will thus, Sir, load the dice against the industry in the State and in favour of the industries outside the State whose competition we have to face.

Then, Sir, there is the question of labour. I feel that the provision of Rs. 30 thousand for six new welfare centres is wholly inadequate. After all more funds could and should have been found for labour welfare. The importance of labour welfare and of contentment of workers cannot be over-emphasized in a modern State. Labour and enterprise are two wheels on which the chariot of prosperity can move. While dealing with labour welfare, Sir, I would like to pause for a moment to emphasise the need for providing family planning facilities in labour areas. I suggest that civil hospitals particularly in labour areas should be equipped to function as family planning centres. Apart from the needs of the industrial parts of the constituency that I represent, I plead for a high school for girls in Jagadhri. There is one Government high school for boys and six Municipal schools in Jagadhri. The need for a girls school, therefore, is being felt very acutely. Sir, Buria is another part of my constituency

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Can an hon. Member read his speech.

Mr. Speaker. My eyes cannot pierce through these benches. However, I presume he is referring to his notes.

Shri Dev Datt Puri : Sir, I was pleading the cause of Buria when I was suddenly interrupted by my hon. Friend. I was stating, Sir, that Buria today is in ruins and while there is an acute shortage of housing accommodation all over the country, it is a tragic fact that the houses in Buria are in such a dilapidated state of disrepair that they are not being occupied. The main reason is that there are no adequate means of earning livelihood available to the residents of Buria and its distance from rail head is a primary handicap. I, therefore, plead, Sir, that the Govern-

ment transport service should be extended from Jagadhri to Buria and the need for electrifying Buria should also be kept in view while the programme for electrification of these areas is being drawn up.

Now, Sir, I wish to refer to the loans position of our State, which presents extremely grave picture. The financial year opens with a total indebtedness of Rs. 58,01,84,000. After allowing for repayment of 93 lakhs, it is expected to close at Rs. 83,81,84,000. We are increasing our indebtedness by 51.36%. Sir, the burden of repayment of these loans and even of the recurring payment of interests presents a very gloomy picture. The only redeeming feature as far as the current financial year is concerned, is that by and large the loan this year is going to be acquired for productive purposes.

Another source of hope and good cheer is a very wholesome announcement—a welcome announcement, made by the Government of India, that the compensation in respect of urban property left behind in Pakistan by refugees is going to be made in the current financial year.

I hope that the suggestions made by me will receive due consideration and with these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Mr. Speaker : The time may be curtailed to 10 minutes for each hon. Member who wants to speak, since the number of members who wish to speak is large.

Sardar Mota Singh : Speeches may not be stopped. We have another day for this purpose.

Shri Kesho Das (Pathankot) (Hindi) : Sir, I want to bring to the notice of this House that the area around Pathankot is hilly. People have to fetch water for drinking purposes from distances of 4 to 5 miles. Practically they waste the whole of their day in bringing water. The water can be made available to the people of 15 villages of that area in case Government arranges to supply it from Shahpur by the lift system.

Further, Sir, Pathankot is situated at a distance of 52 miles from Dalhousie and there is not even a single high school in the whole area between these two towns. The students of that area have to face a great hardship in the absence of a high school. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Education to take steps at a very early date to open a high school in that area.

Then, Sir, seven feet deep silt has settled in the canal which has been taken out from the Madhupur Headworks. Many a time, the waters has over flown its banks, in spite of the fact that Government had raised

[Shri Kesho Das]

its banks by 6 feet. Therefore, it is requested that river Ravi be linked with river Beas so that this settling of silt may be avoided.

Now, Sir, so far as this Budget is concerned, it does not benefit the poor classes. The poor masses have been further taxed. The Government could raise its income by the nationalization of Motor transport. In the end, I again request the hon. Ministers to make a larger provision for the poor classes of the people.

I want, Sir, that the distinction between the rich and the poor should be reduced to its minimum. As a matter of fact the burden upon the weak shoulders of the poor should be lightened. This can be done in various ways. One of them is that the taxes on the articles manufactured in the cities should be utilized for the benefit of the urban population and the taxes on commodities produced in villages should be used for the uplift of the villagers and the poor farmers. I believe, Sir, that the rights of the urban population should be ensured to them while those of the villagers should in no case be denied to them.

Shri Ram Parkash (Molana) (Hindi): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the plight of Harijans. So far, during discussion on the Budget, nobody has placed before the house the view point of this backward class. (An hon. Member: The Government has given you a Minister.) Of course, we have a Minister in the cabinet but the less said about him the better. Anyhow, here I wish to point out that since long we have been hoping that when our National Government come into power the Harijans would progress rapidly. But we find that in spite of the fact that independence was achieved five years back no steps have been taken to ameliorate the lot of this section of our population. The hon. Ministers go to the villages and make promises of various kinds but nothing substantial comes out of them. The poor Harijans are where they were. Things are done for them on paper only. In villages most of the Harijans are cultivators. For instance, in Ambala District about eighty per cent Harijans work on land. Sometime back the Congress accepted the principle of abolishing the zamindari system. It was decided that only the cultivators should own land. But in spite of such loud professions the ejection of tenants has been going on with the result that there is unemployment and the poor people are driven from door to door. In the villages the difficulties of the poor Harijans are increased by the consolidation officers who do not give lands to the Harijans. The population is increasing day by day but no land is

provided for them. In the process of consolidation the land of the poor Harijans is also being taken up.

As regards services it is said that fifteen percent of the posts are reserved for the Harijans. But in practice they are ignored because they have no 'sifarish.' In the State of Punjab I do not think that there is any Harijan Gazetted Officer. I would urge upon the Government the desirability of taking practical steps in employing Harijans in the Government Departments. In the Upper House we find that no Harijan has been taken. At least fifteen percent Members should be from among the Harijans.

Mr. Speaker : Please, do not discuss the Upper House here.

Shri Ram Parkash : Another matter to which the attention of the House need to be drawn is the question of issuing arms licences in the State. The Government is of the view that only those persons should be given licences who possess some property to defend. But in my opinion this is a wrong notion. It is not property alone which needs protection. Life and honour are also the things which are at present not safe in the rural areas. I, therefore, request the Government to issue licences for arms to Harijans also, at least to the extent of fifteen percent.

Another submission, which it will not be out of place to make, is that financial help should be given to the Harijans. They should be given loans with which they may be in a position to do some trade or business. They should be given land for cultivation. It is regrettable that at present, not to say of giving them lands, they are being even ejected from the lands which they have been cultivating. The ordinance which was promulgated some time back has not been able to check their ejectments. In Ferozepore only recently two tenants were shot dead. This state of affairs is deplorable and it should end soon. In this Budget a sum of rupees five lakhs has been provided for the Harijans. This amount is inadequate. I suggest that at least twenty lakhs should be provided for them.

Another matter to which I would like to make a brief reference is the condition of roads in the area of Tehsil Jagadhri in Ambala district. Here, there are certain villages inhabitants of which have never seen a motor bus, not to speak of a railway train. There are not even roads in some ilaqas. In some others the few roads that exist are badly kept and, therefore, are unserviceable. In Chhachhrauli the condition of roads

[Shri Ram Parkash]

is very unsatisfactory. I strongly urge upon the Government the imperative necessity of paying attention to this grievance of the people of this ilaqa. With these words I resume my seat.

Shri Kanhya Lal Butail (Palampur) (Hindi) : Sir, in the first place I would like to speak in connection with the Hissar Famine. The Provincial Government has given by way of relief 65 lakhs of rupees in spite of the fact that it was not provided in the Budget. This amount is considered by the residents of Hissar to be inadequate. Ways and means should, therefore, be found to increase this sum so that it becomes sufficient for the purpose. It has been suggested that the Government of India should also be approached in this matter. Somehow or other the cattle wealth of our State should be saved from extinction. It is a matter of common knowledge that the cattle of Hissar are a fine type. Efforts should be made to send them to other areas so that they may not die of starvation in Hissar, the owners will then be able to sell their cattle and the responsibilities of the Government will then decrease.

Another submission which I would like to make is that more canals should be dug in Punjab so that we may be in a position to produce more foodgrains. In this matter, it is gratifying to note, that our Government is doing its utmost. A number of canals are being dug throughout the State. But it is regrettable that no such arrangements are made in the backward district of Kangra. In that ilaqa the 'kuhls' are not properly kept. The Government should pay heed to the condition of 'kuhls' in Kangra District because that is the chief means by which irrigation is carried on there. They should be properly maintained and even improved.

In the District of Kangra much can be done to extend the irrigation facilities and increase production. I would request the Government to pay full attention to the fact that in that district kuhls are very useful for crops, vegetables, fruits, Tea, herbs, Leazal, Fish, and Pyrethren etc. etc. Many more industries can be started with the water power. The condition of roads and bridges should also be improved so that the people may know what their national Government is doing for them. In the Budget of 1944 provision was made for the repair and construction of bridges and kuhls. But no appreciable progress has been made in this direction. A liberal provision should now be made for this purpose.

Now that Dharamsala-Palampur road is ready for use, it may be stated that the public has liberally contributed towards the construction

of this road. Not only this. Even those persons who have never treaded on this road, have extended appreciable financial help for this purpose. The outstanding donors are Shri Rajpamukh of Pepsu and Lala Jodha Mal Kuthalia. But it is a pity that while private persons have given and are giving monetary help for constructing and maintaining this road our benign Government is silent over this matter. It has not moved even its little finger in making any provision for the construction of this road. The damaged road bridge on Nangal and Buner rivers should be repaired without any delay.

Then I have to draw the attention of the Government to a very vital matter. In the whole of the Kangra District, right from Mandi to places situated hundreds of miles away, there is not one bridge over the river Beas. The public is experiencing a great difficulty for want of a good bridge over the Beas. In this connection I may point out that in the Budget of 1947, a provision was made by the Government for the purpose of constructing a bridge over the Beas at Dehra Gopipur. But the bridge was never constructed and even the amount provided in the Budget of 1947 disappeared in the Budget of 1948. I fail to understand where that amount went or why it was not utilized when it was specifically earmarked for the construction of a bridge over the Beas. I would, therefore, impress upon the Government the imperative need of making a provision in the Budget for the construction of such a bridge. I hope and trust that while the Government will be providing money for the construction of roads in the Kangra District, it will not overlook the dire need of the public in the matter of constructing a bridge over the Beas.

Then, Sir, a good deal of money is being wasted on setting up colonies of refugees and building houses for them at places where they can find no means of livelihood. I would advise the Government to avoid this huge waste of funds and select only those places for colonisation of refugees, which are in proximity to industrial areas. This will go a long way in rehabilitating them because they will be able to find employment and make their ends meet. No useful purpose will be served by constructing houses in lonely places where, or near about of which, no means of livelihood are available. I hope Government will keep this point in view in the matter of building colonies for the refugees.

There is one more point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. That is that at the time of the formation of Standing Advisory Committee provisions should be made to include in them

[Shri Kanhya Lal Butail]

experts in Soap, nuts, herbs, Kuth, Tea, Wool, Shellac etc., hides, bones and spinning and weaving. In Nurpur Tehsil there are about four thousand artisans or workers who have been rendered jobless due to the disappearance of wool industry, which was being run by Muslims who migrated to Pakistan after the partition. I would request the Government to make arrangement for the import of skilled wool artisans from Kashmir and start the wool and Pushmina industry there so that these poor four thousand spinners who are starving at present, may be provided with employment.

In the end I would suggest to the Government that it should take active interest in the development of the Kangra District. It abounds in pleasant hill resorts. If these places are developed, tourists will be attracted and thus add to the revenues of the Government. Some places in Kangra District may be chosen for the starting of Community Projects so that some improvement may be made in this backward District.

Shri Daulat Ram (Kaithal) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, it is generally a habit with the detractors of the Government to ignore the good points in a Budget and in their zeal to criticise it they look at it only from one angle of vision. They try to assess the value of a Budget by employing the measuring rod of economic improvement of the poorest sections of the people of the State. Exactly this has been the attitude of my hon. Friends occupying the opposition benches.

Well, Sir, I would say at the very outset that the manner in which this Budget has been framed is commendable. If I may be permitted to say so, this Budget can rightly be called a "Poor man's Budget". The hon. Finance Minister deserves our hearty congratulations for presenting a Budget which cares more for the betterment of the poor rather than the rich section of the people. I will try to show that this Budget is not at all a rich man's Budget, as is being stated by the hon. Members opposite.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Then the hon. Member has not read it thoroughly.

Shri Daulat Ram : I would ask my hon. Friend to hear me patiently and then pass such remarks. Well, Sir, I was going to submit that the hon. Finance Minister, while keeping in view the finances of the State, has endeavoured to provide the maximum benefit possible to the poorer classes of the State.

Now the poor people of the State can be placed under three categories. The labourers working in the towns come under the first category and the labourers working in the fields belong to the second category. The third category consists of the low paid Government servants. Now we have to see how an effort has been made by the Government to improve their lot. In this connection I would draw the attention of the House to the enhancement of dearness allowance by 5 rupees to which all Government servants drawing Rs. 100 or below per month will become entitled. This is really a commendable effort to help the poor. But my hon. Friends over there have not taken kindly to this proposal. Without caring to look at our financial position, they say that these Government servants should be exalted to the skies and brought at par with other high paid sections of the Government servants. We should talk only of such things as are within the range of possibility. I may assure them that the Government has done for the poor people all that could be done under the present circumstances.

Now so far as the town labourers are concerned, the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation is a welcome piece of news. Obviously a large number of factories will be set up with the help of this Corporation which will provide work to the town labouring classes, thus helping them to lead a life of happiness and contentment.

As regards the other class of poor people who live in villages, I wish to point out to those hon. Members who said that they had been given no relief, that whenever some beneficial scheme is chalked out, its ultimate results are kept in view. Such schemes are bound to take time but the results achieved through them are of a permanent nature. The Community Projects are one of those schemes which will bring about development in the rural areas. In addition to this, the Government is going to give wider powers to the Panchayats. When that proposal assumes a practical shape, much of the money which the villagers spend in litigation will be saved. This money, which in the words of one of my hon. Friends goes to the cities, will remain in the villages.

Our Government is taking another very useful step in nationalizing road transport. This should be done as quickly as possible. This will give great relief to the poor people. The nationalization of Text-books, which the Government has undertaken is another very useful step.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (Hindi) : Sir, I am sorry that I have been given a very short time for expressing my views.

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri]

In order to form a correct opinion about a country's Budget, it is necessary to examine it in respect of two things. First of all, we have to see if the Budget aims at bringing about progress and prosperity in the country, and if so, how far it can help the country in moving in that direction. Then, Sir, the financial position of a country depends upon its income and also upon its expenditure. Income depends upon the resources and we have to see that the revenues are not raised in such a manner as to cause undue hardship to the people. As regards expenditure, it should result in the equal good of all the people. One class of people should not be benefited at the cost of the others. The success of an administration depends on all the needs of the people being paid proper attention.

Now, I shall go into some details. The hon. Minister for Finance has taken great pains in the preparation of this Budget. I congratulate him on not imposing new taxes. But the only new tax which he has imposed is of a very obnoxious nature. I would have preferred a deficit of fifty lakhs of rupees to this tax on passengers and goods being imposed. If this tax had not been imposed, I would have had no complaint against this Budget. The hon. Minister for Finance should have boldly stated that he was presenting a deficit Budget but that he did not propose to impose any new tax.

If the hon. Minister for Finance had been present in the House now, I would have liked to say a few words in regard to the resentment expressed by him on account of my speech regarding famine in Hissar. He enquired from me as to how many times I visited the effected villages in Hissar. I want to tell him that I paid ten times more visits than he did. No doubt the hon. Minister for Finance, the hon. Minister for Revenue and Development, Comrade Ram Chandra and others visited Hissar and tried to acquaint themselves with the conditions prevailing there, but the officials of that place did not place the true and real facts before them. They were misled into believing that the things were not so bad as stated by some people. The hon. Finance Minister asked me why I did not go in the Deputy Commissioner's car. I wish to tell him that I did not want to come under the influence of the Deputy Commissioner by travelling as his guest. I wanted to make an independant enquiry. I did not go alone. All the prominent people of the area were there. My hon. Friend Captain Ranjit Singh was present at the meeting. It should not be thought that like the hon. Ministers, I also toured along the pucca roads only. I went on foot into the interior of the district.

Coming to the taxation system, a number of ways and means of augmenting the revenues of the State, suggest themselves to my mind.

There are, in my opinion, some of the least obnoxious and objectionable measures. There is, for instance, the tax on luxury goods which are not used by the poor. Government would be well advised to resort to this kind of taxation and in cases where it is already charged enhance it. Then there is another source of revenue, namely, [Death Duties—a tax levied at the time of the partition of a family's property, on the death of a holder which can profitably be levied by our Government along with the Central Government which is perhaps already levying it. This tax was first introduced in Germany and is now being levied in all the Western countries.

Moreover, our Government should also insist on having a larger share of the divisible pool of income-tax. All this additional money should be utilized for the promotion of education, relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons, starting industries to remove unemployment and welfare of labour. I think instead of taxing the poor people travelling in buses, some such methods of augmenting the revenues of the State should have been resorted to. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches.*)

Then I feel that the provision made for Community Projects is inadequate and thus there is a likelihood of their not proving as great a success as most of us would wish. We desire these projects to set a standard like that of the early projects started in Russia but it appears they will fall below the ideal. Moreover, places situated in backward areas which were in the greatest need of development should have been the first to be selected as the venues of these projects.

Even today we have the same old bureaucratic, corrupt and slow moving administrative machinery as was left as a legacy to us by the British. There has been no appreciable change in it. We never wanted this machinery to be given a new lease of life after the attainment of Independence. On the other hand we were looking forward to the time when we would have a revolutionary administration for our country. But alas ! Our hopes were belied ! The same old corruption, bribery, and high-browism continue to prevail in our services. I do not say all the officers of this brand. Making due allowance for honest and efficient ones, I would say that 95 per cent of them are undoubtedly corrupt. (of order, order.)

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member may now wind up.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : Kindly permit me to speak for a few minutes more. Now, Sir, I have to say a few important things in regard to two departments, namely, Rehabilitation and consolidation. Our respected Financial Commissioner, Mr. P. N. Thapar, who is present here today.....

Minister for Development: On a point of order, Sir. He cannot take notice of any person sitting in the gallery.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : I am just going to express my feelings of gratitude and respect for that gentleman.

Minister for Development : Sir, I have to repeat that he should not take notice of any person sitting in the gallery.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : On a point of order, Sir. If a member goes wrong or does anything against the rules, is it for the Speaker to stop him and give the ruling or is it for the members to prompt you to take notice of it and give a certain ruling ?

Mr. Speaker : I am always in the hands of the members. (*Laughter.*) But when Professor Sahib speaks, no points of order and rules of procedure apply to him. (*More laughter.*)

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : Thank you for this compliment. I was going to express briefly my sense of appreciation of the excellent work done by the Rehabilitation Department. It really deserves our praise and commendation. Had a few mistakes been avoided by it at the preliminary stage which were later on rectified, the work would have finished much sooner. A few words about Consolidation Department and I have done.

Mr. Speaker : No more, please. You have had enough time.

(*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Thursday, the 19th June, 1952.*)

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

19th June, 1952

VOL. II—No. 5

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 19th June, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : As it is the desire of the hon. Members to take part in the general discussion of the Budget, I dispense with the Question Hour today.

PRIVILEGE MOTION.

Mr. Speaker : Before we proceed with the debate I wish to bring to the notice of the House that Shri Prabodh Chandra wishes to move a privilege motion regarding his complaint against some newspapers for publishing a news item which appears to be neither correct nor proper. It has been requested by the hon. Member that the matter be referred to the Committee on Privileges set up by the House. But I am of the view that this matter should not be stretched to that length as so far our relations with the Press have been happy and cordial. I would, however, point out to the Press that whereas it expects a friendly treatment from us we also expect in return that it should treat the hon. Members of this House with proper respect. So whenever any press correspondents desire to have authentic news about a certain matter relating to the Assembly, they can approach me or my Secretary. We are at their service and they need not indulge in speculations regarding this House. I would, therefore, request the hon. Member not to press for reference of this matter to the Committee on Privileges and treat the matter as dropped.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the Chair's assurance, I withdraw my complaint.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Mr. Speaker : I have received notice of an adjournment motion but I rule it out of order and disallow it.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I read it out ?

Mr. Speaker : When it has been disallowed, the question of reading it out does not arise. The hon. Members must have noticed in the Press that a news item states that when Professor Mota Singh is speaking there are no rules binding him and no points of order can be raised during the course of his speech. I hope the hon Members know that it was said in a lighter vein and not meant to be taken seriously.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET

Sardar Gopal Singh (Jagraon) (Punjabi) : Sir, it gives me a great pleasure to see a capable and an experienced gentleman in the person of Sardar Ujjal Singh occupying a Treasury Bench as Finance Minister of the State of Punjab. But I regret to note that the atmosphere in which he has the bad-luck to be placed, is such that he would not be in a position to do anything useful for the people. Sir, sometime back you were pleased to convey in a letter that it was your earnest desire to see that in India all communities should eschew communalism and work together for the uplift of the people as a whole and create a nation in this country. But the conditions in our country are such that even after the attainment of freedom, communalism has not been liquidated as expected. On the other hand it is on the increase.

In my opinion lakhs of rupees which our Government is spending on General Administration, Justice and Police will go waste if communalism is allowed to go uncurbed. It makes no difference whether it is the communalism of the majority or that of the minority.

Sardar Chanan Singh so ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the grievance of shopkeepers of Simla against the oppressive behaviour of local officers, resulting in their hartal on 17th June, 1952.

I wish to give instances of the way in which certain sections of the population are being treated. In 1948 the order, by which 25% of the services were reserved for ex-servicemen, was withdrawn on the ground that it was against the spirit of the Constitution. But, Sir, it is common knowledge that, in fact, it was an excuse for denying an opportunity to those ex-servicemen who happened to belong to an outstanding martial community of the Punjab. Is this action of the Government not born of rank communalism? Then a circular has been issued that ex-servicemen should not be given preference in the matter of recruitment to the police. Previously, all soldiers up to the rank of Subedar Majors were exempted from the payment of licence fees but now it has been decided to charge licence fees from them even. The Government has declared and the Governor has also made a reference to it in his Address that the motor transport will be nationalised. I think all these moves have an ulterior motive behind them. To my mind it is nothing but communalism. It should be noted that there are about seventy-five motor transport companies in the State. They were set up by the poor operators who had to strain every nerve for bringing them to a strong footing. They sold their lands and whatever small capital they managed to gather they invested in the companies. The Government says that it has made a profit of 6 lakhs of rupees through the State-owned buses but the facts are that the Government owns only 180 buses in all. If these buses were run by the private companies then the Government would have realized the cost of the same from these companies by way of permit fees at the rate of Rs. 700/- per bus, amounting to Rs. 1,26,000 the sales tax on petrol amounting to Rs. 1,23,187 at the rate of annas three per gallon, sales tax on the cost of tyres and tubes etc. amounting to Rs. 39,375. Sales tax on the cost of buses is Rs. 28,125. Income Tax amounts to Rs. 2,779. The Government-owned buses are not paying any of these taxes while the private companies do pay all these taxes to the Government every year. How under these circumstances could the Government say that it has made profit worth rupees 6 lakhs? That is absolutely incorrect.

[Sardar Gopal Singh]

I find that the conditions have deteriorated since the nationalization of transport. Formerly, the bus-fare from Jullundur to Amritsar used to be Re. 1/- per head, but after nationalization it was raised to Rs. 1/9. In addition to this, the passengers have to pay at the rate of two annas per package for loading or unloading of their luggage. The private bus companies load as well as unload the luggage of passengers free of any charge. The Government has constructed no suitable stands to protect the passengers from sun and rain. If anybody asks for a time-table, he is told that the buses leave after every ten or fifteen minutes and that there is no printed time-table. Private bus companies have made much better arrangements for the convenience of passengers. They have printed time-tables and their service is very punctual. If a visit is paid to some bus stands of the Rupa Transport Company one would be reminded of the bus service in Chicago and New York. The demands of the private transport operators are very reasonable. They ask for the appointment of an impartial Tribunal consisting of one representative of the operators, one representative of the Government and one High Court Judge. If that Tribunal comes to the conclusion that in the interests of the public, transport should be nationalized, the operators would accept this decision without any demur. They further complain that the resolution passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 9th March, 1950 is being violated. Another thing which the operators demand is that the Government order asking them not to charge less fare than what has been fixed by the Government, should be withdrawn. If the nationalization scheme is based on some communal considerations, it is still more undesirable.

Now I come to the case of Harijans. We find in the Budget that the amount earmarked for the uplift of Harijans has been increased from rupees one lakh to five lakhs. I may point out that the entire social system in this country is so obnoxious and rotten that it cannot be reformed by setting aside a few lakhs of rupees. India is the only

country in the world where one-third of the population consists of those persons whose very sight or touch is considered enough to pollute the people. This evil, which has existed for thousands of years in this country cannot be eradicated by spending five lakhs of rupees. Then, Sir, fifteen per cent posts in Government offices were reserved for Harijans but not more than two per cent of them have been employed. The matter does not stop here. In reply to my question about the number of Harijans among the gazetted officers in the State it was stated by the Government that suitable Harijans were not available. It is perhaps considered enough to address them by dignified names. For instance, a barber is addressed as 'Raja' and this is considered sufficient to please him. Similarly, a sweeper, who cleans latrines and drains is addressed as Jamadar and he feels happy. We are described as Harijans. May I know, why are we called Harijans? 'Harijan' means the son of God. If we are the sons of God and others are also the sons of God, how do we differ from others? Moreover, the word Harijan has very undesirable connotation. In South India, there is a custom of offering girls at the temples. Some of these girls, who are known as Devdasis, lead an immoral life. Their illegitimate children are also known as Harijans. I, therefore, protest against our being described as Harijans. Either we are untouchables and "misericables" in the literal sense of these words, or we are Indians. If we are considered to be untouchables, we shall see whether we want to live in this country as slaves or we want an independent country for ourselves. I shall ask the Government to accord us better treatment and to give us our share of fifteen per cent in the services.

This year, an increase of rupees four lakhs has been made in the grant for the Industries Department. I wish to point out that communalism is rampant in that Department. Before partition, nine officers in this department belonged to the majority community and six to the minority community. Out of the 1200 officers appointed after the partition only 120 belong to the minority community. I shall request

[Sardar Gopal Singh]

the Government to take action against the communal-minded officers. We are dubbed as members of a communal organisation. I shall ask the Government to arrange for the teaching of Tamil and Telegu in our schools, so that if we go to the South we may be able to understand the language of the people living there. I happened to go to Trivandrum and Trichnopoly but I found myself quite a stranger there. I felt as if I was in some foreign land because the language of that place was unintelligible to me. I assert that we are true nationalists and as a proof of that we demand that along with Hindi and Punjabi, the teaching of South Indian languages should also be introduced in our schools. Is it a communal demand? Are not those persons communalists who asked the people to state Hindi and not Punjabi as their mother tongue at the time of the census operations? Are not these people communalists, who are born in Punjab, speak Punjabi and yet are determined to annihilate the Punjabi language from the State? Now I take the case of the Veterinary Department. Before the partition there were two Hindu, two Muslim and two Sikh officers in the Hissar Cattle Farm. What is the position now? Out of the six officers, five belong to the majority community and one to the minority community.

Mr. Speaker : In my opinion it is not a desirable topic.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Sir, I am not describing any particular community as communal minded. If we are not permitted to state the truth and the present state of affairs is allowed to continue, a stage will come when the situation will become very dangerous. The officers of any community can be communal-minded. I want the government to take stern action against all communal-minded officers, irrespective of community to which they belong. The Veterinary Department started several schemes. Dairy Development Scheme was prepared but later on it was abandoned. What was the cause of that change of decision? In the research staff, as against five officers belonging to the majority community there is only one from the minority

community. Is it not communalism ? I shall request the Government to eradicate this evil from all its departments.

It may be stated even at the cost of repetition that there are some communal-minded officers in certain departments who are out to exterminate all members of a particular community. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, in whose praise the Minister for Finance had waxed eloquent is, so far as our information goes, a rank communalist and is responsible for doing great injustices to members of the community other than that to which he belongs.

Minister for Development : This is absolutely incorrect.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Well, that is the information that we have got. Let the hon. Minister prove it to be wrong. Well, Sir, the character rolls of officials belonging to a particular community who are serving in this district are being deliberately spoiled with a view to having excuses to punish them in one way or the other. An officer who was doing satisfactory work in Sirsa Division has been transferred from there without any rhyme or reason simply because he happened to be a member of a particular community. There is a regular conspiracy to crush all the officers belonging to a certain community serving in this district. This is aimed against the Government Cattle Farm Officer, District Civil Supplies Organiser, District Food Controller, S.D.O. Sirsa Division and Superintendent D. C's office. Instead of allowing these officers to be harassed on the testimony and evidence of persons of doubtful character who are hand in glove with the conspirators, would it not be better if the Government appoints an impartial Committee or Commission to go into the matter and find out who is at fault? Truth will surely come out if this is done and a sifting enquiry made. Such instances of undue victimization of persons of a particular community can be easily multiplied. I am here reminded of a case relating to the Veterinary Department. A very efficient officer who was incharge of the Dairy Section had done commendable work was removed from that post for

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no other reason than that he belonged to a particular community. This officer was responsible for raising the profit from the dairy section from Rs. 6000/- in 1945-46, to Rs. 49,000/ in 1948-49. When he was transferred from there, the income again started falling off. Now I want to tell the House what happened with Sardar Gurdial Singh Man, Sub Divisional Officer at Sirsa.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, it has been a beautiful convention of this House not to discuss anything savouring of communalism and in spite of the repeated rulings of the Chair to this effect, the hon. Member is propagating communalism on the floor of this House.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I am not propagating communalism. I am telling you to stop it.

Mr. Speaker : Please avoid mentioning officers by name.

Sardar Gopal Singh : In regard to relief operations being carried out by the Government in Hissar, I may inform the Government that the money shown as being spent on the unloading of fodder is going into the pockets of the officials entrusted with this work. The unloading work is, in fact, got done by the regular labour of Hissar Cattle Farm and not by any specially hired labour. The money alleged to have been paid as wages for this work has been misappropriated. Moreover, false accounts are being prepared about the quantity of fodder received and distributed. Contract for supply of fodder worth rupees eighty thousand were given to some local persons because the officers concerned were interested in them. The proper procedure in such matters is to call for tenders through advertisements in the newspapers but in this case it was conveniently ignored.

Coming to the Police Department, I am constrained to remark that it is a great injustice to the people of Karnal district to burden them with punitive police posts. I find that the Government has posted 21 such punitive posts in 21 villages of this district which are mostly inhabited by poor refugees. Instead of taking the inefficient

police staff to task for increase in the incidence of crime, these poor people are being made a scapegoat. Thousands of rupees are being realized from them in the form of fines as if to make an offering to the police on a silver plate. Here is a hand bill issued by the District Refugees Association in which it is mentioned that fine amounting to Rs. 76 thousand has been imposed on these poor villagers ! I would like to read out a sentence from it. They have called it 'the new favour of the Congress Government.'

Mr. Speaker : Please continue with your speech and don't read anything from any poster.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Now a few words about the Electricity Department. So far as our information goes, more communalism is rampant in this Department than in any other. Here there is a regular conspiracy to exterminate persons belonging to a particular community. There are some posts in this Department which carry a special allowance. All these posts have been given to persons professing a particular religion while their compeers of the other community are not allowed to draw this allowance. There are 4 posts of Under-Secretaries ; all these four posts are held by persons belonging to the majority community. All these posts carry special allowances of Rs. 200 p.m. Is it not clear discrimination on grounds of religion ?

Minister for Local Government : On a point of order, Sir. Are you going to permit the revival in free India of the old practice of Unionist times of referring to the communal proportion in services, promotion of Hindu and Muslim officials and so on ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is speaking in such a manner as to give the impression that he has some complaints against the Government and moreover he is not naming any community or officer and so I can't help what he is saying. Still I would request him to avoid such matters.

[Sardar Gopal Singh]

Sardar Gopal Singh: Well, Sir, what I want to submit is that 40 per cent of the posts in the Head Office of the Electricity Department should be given to persons belonging to the minority community. (*Voices : What does the hon. Members mean by a minority community ?*) Sir, obviously the Scheduled Castes come under the category of a minority community.

Mr. Speaker : May I draw the attention of the hon. Member that the Constitution of India does not permit of any discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. His suggestions, therefore, are clearly *ultra vires* of the Constitution.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Yes, Sir, I admit that the Constitution provides for such safeguards and that is why we cannot tolerate any discrimination between the communities in the matter of admission to services. I would request the Government to appoint two highly placed I.C.S. officers of different communities to make an inquiry into the affairs of the Electricity Department and whether due share is given to the members of the minority community or not. I would say that there is a sort of an organized conspiracy among the members of the majority community in this department to oust the members of the minority community. Is this state of affairs justified or desirable ? We have already suffered heavily on account of harmful effects of communalism resulting from the vivisection of the country. We should, therefore, create such conditions in the State that the members of the minority community may not feel that anything is being forced upon them against their will. Obviously, we should adopt effective measures to get rid of communalism. But if our mouths are gagged and communalism is allowed to go unchecked or unpunished then I may warn the Government that there will be a civil war in the State on such a colossal scale that what to talk of the Punjab Government even the Government of India will not be able to control it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : (Jullundur City South-East) (*Hindi*):

Sir, I would like to make a few observations with regard to this Budget which the hon. Minister for Finance has presented to the House constituted under the new Constitution. This Ministry assumed office on the 17th April and nearly after two months this Budget has been placed before us. There is no denying the fact that the present Ministry could not prepare this Budget strictly in accordance with its wishes but still the hon. Minister for Finance deserves to be congratulated on this Budget for what it is worth. Though there is nothing of an outstanding importance in the Budget yet there are 3 or 4 items in it which are indicative of the fact that the Ministry means business and really intends to do something for the good of the State. Its good intentions are distinctly visible from the fact it has increased the dearness allowances of its employees drawing upto Rs. 100/- per mensem. Though the relief granted by the Government may not be considered substantial yet it reveals the solicitude of the Government to help the low-paid employees. It has also increased the pay of teachers though the increase is only nominal considering the high cost of living these days. The present Ministry could not bestow its careful thought on the Budget which was almost complete when this Ministry took over charge and thus it could make only a slight modifications here and there. I am sure it would frame its own policy incorporating in it all those things which do not find a place in the present Budget. Now I would like to make a few constructive suggestions for the consideration of the Government. During the pre-independence days the Congress used to proclaim that if it accepted office its Ministers would not draw more than Rs. 500/- per mensem. It must now take steps to implement that promise and fix the upper limit of the salary at Rs. 1000/- per mensem in view of the high cost of living these days. It is manifestly clear that the top-heavy administration is a great burden on the poor finances of the State. Before the partition there were only two Financial Commissioners but

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now the number has been increased to three. Sometime back when I was a member of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee it recommended that this State could ill-afford, with its poor finances, to bear the burden of high salaries of these I. C. S. officers. This Government took up the matter with the Central Government which was of the opinion that the salaries of the I. C. S. officers could not be reduced under the contract. I would say that if the Government cannot touch the salary of these officers it should ask the Central Government to withdraw these officers from this State as our Government is not in a position to bear the burden of these white elephants.

Beside this, I may draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that there were only two Financial Commissioners before partition and the third Financial Commissioner has been appointed to look after the work of the Grow-More Food department. The success of the Grow-More-Food Scheme is not dependent upon the appointment of a highly paid officer but on the permanent allotment of land to the cultivators. I would ask the hon. Minister for Finance to speed up the work of rehabilitation and permanent allotment of land to the zamindars. There are many people who want to take land on lease. I think that there can be no progress in the Grow-More Food Campaign unless every inch of uncultivated and culturable waste land is brought under the plough. The work of Grow-More-Food requires careful planning rather than appointment of high officers for supervision of this work.

Sir, the next point that I would like to urge is regarding the office of the Elections Commissioner. On page 172 of the Memorandum explanatory to the Budget a provision has been made to the tune of Rs. 1,30,000 to be spent on the establishment of the office. Now Sir, as the elections are over, I think there is scope for reduction in the expenditure on this item.

Now about the Commissioners, I am constrained to remark that the Government is still moving in the same old groove regarding this matter. In this connection, I may point out that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee recommended the abolition of the posts of Commissioners. I regret that there is not sufficient time at my disposal to give a detailed account of the report of that Committee on the floor of the House. However, I would like to mention for the information of the hon. Members that the Committee after having entered into correspondence with the Governments of other States found that the corresponding number of posts of Commissioners in the Uttar Pradesh Government was much less than that in the Punjab. It may also be stated that in the State of Bombay no such post exists, and yet the administration of these States is being run smoothly. The expenditure to be incurred on the establishment of these officers in the Punjab is given on page 185 of the Budget Memorandum and it is to the tune of Rs. 2,75,670. I would request the Government that it should try to cut down the heavy expenditure that is being incurred every year in this connection and utilise the funds thus saved for the amelioration of the lot of the poor people.

Then, Sir, the Minister for Civil Supplies was an enthusiastic worker when he used to share these benches with us. He used to criticise the Government severely for any wasteful expenditure and this naturally led us to believe that when he became a Minister he would undoubtedly do something substantial in the light of his views on the subject. Nevertheless I am constrained to remark that in the present Budget there is nothing of any outstanding importance about the Civil Supplies Department. When we turn the pages of these voluminous blue prints we notice on page 100 of the Budget that a provision amounting to Rs. 14,19,150/- has been made for spending on the Civil Supplies Department and a sum of Rs. 754590/- for purposes of running the scheme of rationing. Thus the total outlay comes to about rupees 22 lakhs. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the hon Minister to the fact that

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the huge expenditure incurred on the maintenance of a large establishment in the offices of the District Organisers, District Food Controllers, Food Distribution Officers and on the vast army of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors under these officers, is simply extravagance on Civil Supplies Department. It becomes all the more painful when we find that sugar and cloth for the control of which a separate department is being maintained are freely available in the open market. Besides this, it becomes absurd to continue the control over the foodgrains when an assurance has been held out by the hon. Minister that our State has become surplus in foodgrains this year.

Under these circumstances, I fail to understand the necessity of keeping this Department in existence. It would not be out of place to mention here that the Madras Government has abolished controls, and I am of the opinion that our Government, too, must follow suit. I have suggested curtailment of only such expenditure as can be effected without impairing the efficiency of the administration and yet place sufficient funds at the disposal of the Government so that it could help its low paid employees a little more liberally as so far it has been able to enhance their allowance only by Rs. 5/- p.m. owing to the paucity of funds. Now, as I have already stated, the additional funds required for this purpose can be secured by effecting economy in the manner suggested by me.

Now, Sir, I come to the beneficent Departments. As regards Education, I will express my views when this demand comes up for discussion in the House. I would, however like to make a few observations regarding the Medical and Health Departments. It is common knowledge that the health of the nation depends upon the measures adopted by the State for its maintenance. The hon. Members are well aware of the fact that the medical facilities made available by the Government to the people, both the urban and rural areas, are most inadequate. A general complaint has appeared in the press. that the number of hospitals and dispensaries

particularly in the rural areas is few and far between and that wherever any dispensaries exist they are not well equipped. The average cost per head of medicine supplied by the Government does not exceed even one pice. I know this is true of the Juliundur Hospital, and that is why I lay so much emphasis on the allocation of more funds for the Health Department by reducing the provisions made for other departments. Unfortunately as a result of the partition, we have been deprived of our Medical Colleges excepting the one at Amritsar. It must have come to the knowledge of the Government that the students are experiencing great difficulty in connection with their admission into this College. There is one Arya Medical College at Ludhiana but it is a pity that the grant in aid given to it by the Government is much less than what is paid to Dr. Brown's College. I would suggest to the Government to take over this College and make it an up-to-date degree medical college.

Another department to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is that of the Public Works. It is such a Department that I can safely call it a spoilt Department of the Government. Like a spoilt child this Department has become incorrigible. The other day I made a proposal in the Party Meeting that a day should be reserved for the discussion of the demand for the Public Works Department but this was not possible. Now, as I have been associated with this Department, I know much about it. Then the departments of Public Health, Electricity, Irrigation and Buildings and Roads and its various Branches, have got their separate overseers, Sub-Divisional Officers, Executive Engineers and Chief Engineers. The Public Works Department, Building and Roads Branch looks after the Government buildings and if the department of Public Health is amalgamated with that Department, this arrangement will result in a considerable saving to the State exchequer. The House is well aware that the staff of this Department has increased manifold as compared with what it used to be

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before partition. But I know the Minister for Public Works will try to justify this inordinate increase in the staff by saying that the undertakings and responsibilities, of this department, too, have increased correspondingly, for instance it has taken over the charge of Jullundur electric supply company and so on. In this connection, I would like to point out that from the day this concern passed under the control of the Government there has been a distinct deterioration in the efficient and regular supply of the electric energy to the consumers. Some times the electricity service remains disrupted for many hours and consequently the students and the hospital patients are put to considerable inconvenience. Then Sir, the Government has raised the rate of electricity by three annas per unit over the previous rate which was being charged by the local electric supply company. The House will, thus, see that whereas the rate per unit has been raised the efficiency of service has gone down. I can well anticipate that the hon. Minister-in-Charge will come forward with his explanation to justify the increase in the rate per unit of electric energy on the ground that now his department renders better and prompt service. But the standard of efficiency of this department can well be judged from the recent blackouts in Jullundur which were entirely due to the frequent breakdowns in the supply of electricity. Now, I shall try to throw some light on the Public Works Department, Buildings and Road Branch. This has become the order of the day, that for a construction work, which costs Rupees Five thousands when constructed through some private agency, the Public Works Department will prepare an estimate of rupees twenty thousands. Similarly if a building is constructed under private supervision it would not only be completed in a short-period but will also be capable of lasting for 10 years. On the other hand if a building is constructed by the Public Works Department, it would take at least two and a half years for completion and would not even then be durable.

Sir, while mentioning these things I have no intention to criticise the working of a department, but only the intention to make some constructive suggestions to the Government to bring about improvements in the

administration of that department. Then, Sir, a provision has been made in the Budget for the Home Defence Department. At present I fail to see any justification for the maintenance of this department. Of course it had its full utility at the time, when the relations between India and Pakistan were strained. Now, when that emergency no longer exists, I feel that this item of expenditure is rendered superfluous and totally unnecessary. I think it is not advisable at all to spend any more money on the Home Defence. Then, Sir, the Instructors employed by the Home Defence Department are being paid at the rate of Rs. 300/- to Rs. 400/- per mensem each for doing no work. This item of expenditure can safely be eliminated from the Budget. The saving thus caused can be utilised for some better purpose. Then the Government is spending large sums on the Police. I know, that the hon. Minister-in-Charge will put forward the stereotyped plea that this has been necessitated in view of our State being situated at the border. I am strongly of the opinion that if our State has to spend heavily on Police and Home Defence, simply due to our proximity to the border, then we must approach the Government of India and impress upon it that fairness demands that a portion of this expenditure be borne by it. I volunteer myself to accompany the deputation that the Government may like to send to Delhi for the purpose of representing the matter. I am sure, the Central Government would at least consent to putting the Military on duty, for the protection of our borders.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions to the hon. Minister, by acting upon which they can increase the revenues of the State. I am of the view that the Government should modify the method of levying the Sales Tax by changing the stage at which it, is now being levied. I may point out in passing that my suggestions if acted upon, will go a long way in removing the discontentment that is prevailing in the public on account of the existence of certain

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lacunae in the method of imposing this tax. The present procedure contains some serious drawbacks and a certain class of traders are exploiting these defects to their advantage. They are using two types of Cash Memos. The kacha cash memo is issued to the customer while in the pacca faked entries which suit the dealer are made, and these entries only are put up for inspection. They are thus evading the payment of Sales Tax. I think that with a view to preventing them from indulging in such malpractices the Government should levy this tax at the manufacturing stage of the articles of daily use, i. e. at the Factories. By doing so not only no one will be able to evade its payment, but also the checking of account by the audit staff would be facilitated to a considerable extent. The public will also not feel the pinch. This will result in the removal of certain practical difficulties experienced by the traders in connection with the obtaining and renewal of licenses.

Now, Sir, I regret to point out the failure of the Government in its not being able to take any action on the recommendation of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee regarding the enhancement of the abiana rates in the State by 50%. Instead of doing that the Government has dissolved that Committee. I would therefore, request the hon. Minister for Finance to take immediate steps to raise the abiana rates by 50 per cent.

Then, Sir, I want to tell the Government that I do not approve of the new tax of one pie per anna, which the Government is going to impose on the passengers and goods carried by motor vehicles. I would rather request the Government to impose new taxes like the Bachelor Tax, the Marriage Tax etc. My feeling is that even the poor classes will not mind paying a nominal tax on occasions of marriages because usually they spend large amounts on them.

Then Sir, one thing has surprised me most and that is the Opposition offered by the hon. Members of the Communist Party to the

nationalization of Motor Transport. On the one hand they cry themselves hoarse that every industry in the State should be nationalized and on the other they are against nationalisation of Motor Transport. It is a matter of gratification that so far the partial nationalization of motor transport in the Punjab has proved a great success. To my mind, Government buses are definitely better than the buses owned by the private companies. The State Bus Service is quite regular and the public is fully satisfied, with the comforts provided therein by the Government. It is, therefore, commendable on the part of the Government to have made provisions of twenty nine thousands rupees for this purpose. I strongly feel that it should nationalize all the transport services in the State at the earliest possible time. Some concession may, however, be given to the Transport Services owned by the refugees. But the Government should make it a point to employ all the efficient staff working in those companies at the time of taking over.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (Hindi) : Sir, the Budget for the year 1952-53 is now before us. I have made some research with regard to the word Budget and have tried to trace out the origin of this word as also the reasons for its association with the annual financial statement of the Government. I am sure the Opposition will be liberal enough to give me credit for stealing a march over it in this matter. (*Laughter*).

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, is it relevant that the hon. Member should state the meaning of the word 'Budget'.

Shri Abdul Gaffar Khan : I am defining 'Budget' and I am sure Shri Sri Chand will be pleased to hear the definition. It is like this :—

“ The word 'Budget' as applied to public finance was traced by Edwina Cannon to an anonymous pamphlet entitled Budget Opened

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“ attacking the policy of Walpole, while Chancellor of the Exchequer and likening him to a clown opening his bag of tricks and deceptions. The phrase strikes and in time turns anodyne. Opening the Budget is now the most official parliamentary... .. ”

After defining the budget I wish to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, Sardar Gopal Singh, for the words which he has uttered against communalism. I support him wholeheartedly, if he is really serious in condemning all forms of communalism without any exception. It has been stated that communalism is rampant. But the question is, where, how, and in what form? If these questions had been asked outside the House then in reply I would have been free to recite a couplet. (Laughter) But here I can only say that a condemnation of communalism should be unreserved and thorough irrespective of the fact that communalism is of the majority or that of the minority. It is my considered opinion that more words cannot put an end to this evil. It is the actions and thoughts that should be freed from this evil disease.

Then Sir, it has been alleged that nationalization of transport is undertaken only because certain persons have a desire to harm a section of our people. I assure my hon. Friends of the Opposition that there is no sinister motive behind this move and I am of the opinion that any Minister who entertains such an idea, even for a moment, does not deserve to hold that office of responsibility. Those who talk of majority and minority communalism should also pause and think about the conditions under which a negligible minority has to live in our State. There are some Muslims who did not leave the State and who remained here. At present they are in a pitiable plight. No lands are given to them and they have to go from pillar to post in order to eke out their living.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I wholeheartedly support you in this.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : May I ask Sir, whether my hon. Friend considered us a minority or not? Any how, what I wish to submit is that we can work for the uplift of the down-trodden only if we shed off communalism and try to think in terms of the improvement of those who really deserve our attention irrespective of the community to which they belong. I can cite a thousand and one instances in which things have not been done by the officers in the way in which they ought to have been done. As I have already stated, lands have not been allotted to such Muslims as did not migrate to Pakistan despite the announcements made by the Government of India that such Muslims would be entitled to the allotment of lands. It is the officers, I think who are to be blamed for this. Their attitude and actions are fanning the fire of communalism even after the achievements of independence.

Now I wish to say something about the Budget itself. Of course, I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his efforts to present as good budget as he possibly could under the circumstances in which he was placed. It is difficult for us to hold him responsible for any shortcomings in the Budget which naturally could not be avoided in these circumstances. Some of the hon. Members criticized it and said that it is an imperfect budget. But if they had taken the circumstances into account in which it was prepared they might have changed their views. However, I admit that certain lapses do exist in it. In the first place the Government has not been able to reduce the expenditure on the Police which everyone feels is too excessive. As a matter of fact the Police Department is like white elephants at our door. Moreover the attitude of this Department has not changed with the change in times or the change in our Government. In fact the police officers have gone out of control and they let loose on the people their terror. I wish to give an instance of such behaviour. There is a village named Barara in my District. A person of the village was arrested. I am

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not concerned here with the character or the antecedents of that person, I would only like to state that.....

Shri Mool Chand Jain: Sir, the matter cannot be discussed here as it is *subjudice*.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : No, Sir, it is not *subjudice*. The Government is holding an enquiry into the matter and it is being delayed unnecessarily.

Mr. Speaker : The matter may not be *sub-judice*, but the enquiry may be prejudiced if this matter is discussed here.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Well, Sir, I seek your guidance in the matter. Undoubtedly we brought this matter to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister and he did appoint an officer to make a searching enquiry into it. But if the matter is really *subjudice* then.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member need not refer to it because even if it is not *subjudice*, the enquiry is likely to be prejudiced by the views expressed by him about it.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : But Sir, I am constrained to remark that despite the fact that the deceased, who is alleged to have been shot, was an important person, the enquiry has so far been not completed. His mother is bewailing and bemoaning and knocking from pillar to post and yet there are no signs of completion of that enquiry.

Minister for Finance : I may inform the hon. Member that the enquiry has been completed.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member has himself stated that the Chief Minister appointed an officer to enquire into the matter. Now if he persists in expressing his views and drawing certain inferences from it, then the enquiry is bound to be prejudiced. I would, therefore, ask him to leave this matter and proceed with his speech.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : That is why I sought your

guidance and I bow to your ruling. Well, Sir, this is not the only incident wherein police has committed atrocities on the people. I can quote chapter and verse to show its atrocious treatment towards the people. To cut short, Sir, it is no exaggeration to say that the harassment of people by the police goes unabated and the police has begun to feel that there is no Government in the State except the police *raj* (Cheers). I, therefore, submit that if the Government is determined to have this white elephant, it should at least train it not to trample the poor people under its feet or grind them with its heavy tusks.

Now I advert to the item of Forests. I would like to make a request to the Minister-in-charge and if he is pleased to comply with it, then not only I but the people of my *ilaga* will feel grateful to him. I have received complaints from the hill people, that when their mothers, sisters or daughters go to fetch water from certain springs in the hills, their modesty is not safe at the hands of the forest guards, while they have to pass through the forests. I cannot vouchsafe for the correctness of the complaints, but the fact remains, that the matter requires to be enquired into and I hope the hon. Minister-in-charge will be pleased to move into the matter.

After this I would like to touch the Rehabilitation Department. It needs no mention that the officers of this department are very arrogant and they have very little sympathy for our distressed and displaced brethren who have come from the other side of the border. The officers take delight in shifting an allottee from his land at one place to another without caring for his inconvenience or the financial loss likely to be caused to him by such shifting. This difficulty is being experienced frequently by allottees both in rural and urban areas. I would request the hon. Minister to give his attention to this matter and save the allottees from the harassment by the officers of the Rehabilitation Department.

Now, I come to the Public Works Department. The less said about it the better. It needs no mention that whatever wrong this department may commit, that is pardonable. If a policeman accepts rupees ten from a person, then that is bribery and corruption and so on. But the

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ten percent money of a contract, quietly devoured by the officials of the P. W. D., is not considered as corruption ! They feel it as their birth right to get this money ! My sister Shrimati Sita Devi threw a flood of light on the working of this Department. She has rightly said that may God save us from coming into contact with the P. W. D. people ! Now what I wanted to drive at was that when a contractor has to pay 10 percent to P. W. D. officials, naturally he tries to make up this amount by using unfair means, that is by using inferior material. I would respectfully ask the hon. Minister-in-charge to see that such an evil practice prevalent in this department, as has been stated by me, is soon done away with.

Then my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, took strong exception to the use of the word 'Harijan' in connection with the Scheduled Caste brethren. He said that they were not Harijans but human beings and Indians. I quite agree with him in this respect. I may tell him that the word 'Harijan' is not used in the same sense as the word 'jamadar' is used in eulogising a scavenger or the word 'Raja' is employed in addressing a hair-cutter. It is used in the same way as the word 'Mehtar', which means a great man, as the Mehtar of Chitral. Besides, my submission is that my brethren, who have the misfortune to be called as '*Achhuts*' should first get rid of untouchability rampant amongst themselves. I know of certain scheduled castes, like the Ramdasis who do not enter into any matrimonial relations with other castes like the Bhangis. I think if they do away with this evil, there is no reason why others should treat them as '*Achhuts*'.

Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member's time is over. Before I call upon any other hon. Member to make his speech, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a letter addressed to me by one Shri Shiv Dayal, a gentleman from the Press Gallery. It is to the following effect:—

In the course of your observations today you were pleased to take objection to some headlines of news relating to lack of order in the House.

If the reference was to the daily 'Milap' I wish to submit that

even though the message was conveyed correctly on the phone, it seems due to some interruption in the telephone line the gentleman who received the message probably could not follow me correctly and published the news rather incorrectly.

I regret this publication. I assure you that it was not my or the 'Milap's intention to publish anything wrong or cast any aspersions on the Chair.

I am glad that he has made an atonement for publishing the wrong news and I accept his assurance.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*): Sir, I wish, I could also offer my congratulation to the hon. Minister for Finance on this budget, but after going through it I have come to the conclusion that I cannot do so. On seeing its attractive cover, I thought that there might be something attractive inside too, but I found nothing of that kind in it. If there is anything on which I can congratulate the hon. Minister for Finance, it is the attractive get up and printing of the Budget volumes. After having perused it, the impression that I have formed is that it can be linked to the Budget of an inefficient, unintelligent and insolvent Nawab. It does not contain a single item of any outstanding importance for which I could congratulate the hon. Minister for Finance. At the same time, I can not help congratulating those Government servants who prepared it, for the care taken by them to safeguard the interests and privileges of the services. I am sure that if the hon. Minister for Finance had cared to read it before giving his approval to it, he would have refused to approve of it. It is a deficit Budget and most of the expenditure has been met out of loans. The total amount of loans taken by our State amounts to Rs. 88 crores. But when I find that even interest on these loans is paid out by some other loans, how can I congratulate the Government? I think that if the Finance Minister's manager had placed before him an account of his business, showing loss as well as increase in loans, he would have surely dismissed him. Then, Sir, most of the hon. Members occupying Government benches could not express their views freely because they were bound by party discipline. Although some of them described it as an improvement on

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the previous Budgets yet they could not help remarking that it should have been better than what it was. Besides this, some of the hon. Members had the courage to dub it as an unsound Budget and say that the expenditure could be considerably reduced. But what was the result of that criticism? The Government recorded its appreciation of that criticism by appointing the eighth Minister. So my apprehension is my criticism, which might find favour with some of the members sitting opposite, may dispose the Government to appoint Deputy Ministers, or Parliamentary Secretaries. (*Laughter*). On going through the Budget, I find that the salaries of Government officials range from Rs.20 to Rs.5500 per mensem. The Government has decided to abolish special pays but in that matter also they have not been able to touch the high-paid officers. The special pay of Government servants drawing less than Rs. 500 has not been touched because they are considered to be poor. But in regard to employees earning above Rs. 500 p. m., as basic pay, the action of the Government has been very tardy because the abolititon of such pays has been spread over a period of three years. Still it is gratifying to note that the Government has accepted the principle of abolishing special pay and I congratulate it on that account. What method have they adopted to achieve that end? There are various types of special allowances and pays mentioned in the Budget. The Members of the services know that the Ministers remain in office for a few days only and that they would accept any suggestion made by them. If I have to enumerate the varied types of special allowances, the hon. Members will be simply astonished to hear them. The Government servants have very ingenious brains and they are always devising methods of getting more money from the Government. A careful perusal of the Budget, will indicate a variety of special pays and special allowances like the dearness allowance, compensatory allowance, temporary allowance, local allowance, Secretariat allowance, house rent allowance, cash allowance, travelling allowance, Miscellaneous allowance, Delhi compensatory allowance, Simla allowance, corporation allowance, medical charges

miscellaneous honoraria, conveyance allowance, sumptuary allowance, equipment allowance, free ration allowance, daily allowance and election allowance mentioned in it. The number of these different kinds of allowances is twenty three. In some cases, the amount of allowances paid to Government servants exceeds their basic salaries. Not only this. One and the same Government servant is sometimes in receipt of a number of allowances.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh: How many allowances is the hon. Member getting?

Shri Sri Chand: My hon. Friend will get permits and not allowances. Some of these allowances are such that the purpose for which they are sanctioned passes one's comprehension. What are the compensatory and sumptuary allowances intended for? Possibly the intention of the Government is to somehow provide the officers with some additional pay. Wherever you put these officers, they will draw some of these allowances. The matter does not stop here. When a Government servant cannot be paid a higher pay then some kind of additional allowance is sanctioned for him. I would, therefore, ask the Government to see that this system of giving special allowances is abolished lock, stock and barrel. Then, Sir, out of the total expenditure of Rs. 17 crores a sum no less than Rs. 13 crores represents the salaries of the Government officials.

Minister for Public Works: This is not a statement of facts.

Shri Sri Chand: Well, Sir, it has been stated that our Government has effected a saving of Rs. 40,000 by withdrawing special pays. Does it not appear ludicrous that the Government should be able to save only this paltry amount of Rs. 40,000/-? Anyway this is a matter of satisfaction that the principle of abolishing special pays has been accepted by the Government. I, therefore reiterate, Sir, that not only should the special pays be completely abolished but twenty three types of allowances mentioned by me should also be stopped. For how long can the State bear the burden of such heavy expenditure on the administration? Every day the number of Government officers is being increased. For instance, formerly there used to be two Secretaries in the Revenue Department. One was known as Secretary and the other was called Assistant Secretary, but now there are four officers in addition to the Secretary viz., one Deputy Secretary, Revenue, one Deputy Secretary,

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Development, one Under Secretary, Revenue and one Under Secretary Development. Similarly previously there used to be only one Under Secretary in the Finance Department. Now this department has one Under Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries and one Budget Officer. In the Home Department, there are three Under Secretaries in place of one. They are designated as Under Secretary Political, Under Secretary Home and Under Secretary Partition. The last named Under Secretary has practically no work to do. My feeling is that whenever it is desired to oblige an officer by posting him at Simla, an additional post is created in the Secretariat.

Take the case of Under Secretary, Partition. As I have already stated he has not got even five minutes' work. Yet the post is being continued. The policy of this Government in this matter reminds me of a Maharaja who was told by the sooth sayers that he would be assassinated by one of his sacked servants and who consequently dared not terminate the services of any one whom he had once employed and so the number of his employees multiplied to such an extent that his state ultimately became bankrupt. To me it appears that this ministry has also been advised that the day it retrenches and abolishes any post it would meet its doom and that is why it dare not think of doing so. The result is that even those posts for which any justification has ceased to exist since long are being continued. In other words the criterion is that work or no work, a post once created must be continued. So the continuance of the staff appointed in connection with the elections is no wonder and it is not the only instance of its kind. Today we are repeating what those who are occupying the ministerial benches used to say before they became Ministers but it appears they are turning a deaf ear to it and are looking on in an attitude of non-chalance though I am sure their hearts must be bearing us out regarding what we are saying.

Minister for Public Works: Yes, but circumstances have now changed.

Shri Sri Chand: Yes, you are helpless. This Government, has without caring for the fact that almost half of the population of this State comprises of those poor displaced people who had to cross the border in a state of utter destitution with no other belongings except one or two garments that they were covering their bodies, increased its income from taxation to more than Rs. 17 crores in utter

disregard of the tax paying capacity of the people. Now, let me place before the House some interesting facts and figures regarding the money that is being spent by this Government on beneficent and public welfare activities after realizing this huge amount of Rs. 17 crores from the people in the form of Taxes. I might first tell the House that the per capita burden of taxation in this State is higher than in any other State. On an average it comes to Rs. 15 per head while in other States which have not suffered the ravages of partition, the per capita incidence does not exceed Rs. 10. I may also make it clear that even in the case of people living in rural areas it is no less than Rs. 17 per annum.

Now let us see what this benign Government which claims to represent the common man and is never tired of expressing its concern for the backward classes spends on the education of the people. Its budget for education forms 11.4 percent of the total Budget. If the total allocation for education is spread on the whole population, the expenditure on education comes to Rs. 2 per head, Rs. 1/8/- per capita in the case of urbanites and -/8/- per capita only in the case of ruralites. This is the provision made for education by this popular Government which according to its own claims is ever anxious for the upliftment and development of the rural people. (*Voices : These figures are incorrect*). I have taken them from this Budget.

Then, Sir, coming to the expenditure on public health, I find that it is more than -/8/- per capita per year while for meeting the medical expenses alone of the Governor a provision of Rs. 24 thousand has been made. I have also calculated and come to the conclusion that this munificent Government spends annas -/2/- per capita only on medicines etc., in the case of the rural population. About the miserable condition of rural dispensaries the less said the better. Dirty, ill equipped short of all essential medicines, as these dispensaries always are, they can afford no medical aid to the dying children of these poor village folk. If a villager happens to have his arm fractured, he is asked to bring his own bandage and if he says that it is not available in the village he is advised to send for it from Delhi and wait until it arrives.

About the roads the Minister incharge has admitted that no new *pucca* roads are proposed to be built; only the existing ones will be repaired.

If we broach the question of giving due share to the ruralites in services we are accused of creating artificial divisions and distinctions and in

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is conveniently forgotten that so long as an equality of opportunity is absent in the matter of education it is unjust and unfair to ask ruralites to compete with denizens of towns for entry into Civil Service.

And then the syllabi prescribed for these competitive examinations and the criteria of suitability for selection to Government posts is all to the advantage of urbanites. I am of the opinion that immediate steps must be taken by the Government to change these criteria and that physical culture and robustness of constitution should be given a due place in these competitions. As to the educational facilities available to the children of the urbanites and ruralites respectively, hardly any comparison is possible. Whereas the existence of a large number of colleges and facilities for conveyance and private coaching are available in urban areas, we find that the schools staffed by ill-paid, normal-plucked teachers and separated by several miles from the homes of students with no arrangement for conveyance from the picture of education in rural areas. What a comparison! Often the son of a peasant has to return home without taking any lesson owing to the illness of his poor teacher's buffaloe. On the other hand the children of the rich in towns have private tutors to teach them singing and dancing.

Despite this disparity we in fact, all earnestly wish that our Punjab should attain the same position and status which it used to enjoy before the partition. Though our Government is the Congress Government yet it must look to the interests of all people to whatever party they may belong. We have all to pull together for the well-being of the State.

What we find today is that the orders of the Civil Supplies Department are always changing. Today I happened to enquire from the Inspector, Civil Supplies about control price of wheat but he did not know what it was. These orders are published in the Government Gazette and never come to the knowledge of the men in the street. In fact we have inherited this system from the British Government and it seems that we want to continue it. Our policy is that what has proved right in the past is sure to prove so in the future. But the changed conditions necessitate changed methods to educate the public. The Government should therefore give full publicity to its decisions among the public. A man in the street should be able to learn what restrictions have been imposed by the Government on the movement of foodgrains. He should also know the control prices of all commodities which are fixed by the Government from time to time. Besides this we all know that the old Law of the British Government has become so commonly known that everybody knows what the Indian Evidence Act or the Criminal

Procedure Code is. But now-a-days laws are ever changing. Today if there is control on Bajra or any other commodity it is withdrawn the other day. So the general public remains completely in the dark as to when the control was imposed or withdrawn. In fact such things can only happen if the Ministers evince interest and enthusiasm in the working of the administration. It is a pity that the Ministers instead of pledging themselves to the service and the betterment of the people are always worried about strengthening and consolidating their own position. They are always wooing one group or the other lest any no-confidence motion against them may at any time be brought before the House.

Further I would suggest that if the Government really wants to effect economy in the expenditure it should reduce the number of Ministers. Now the provision under this head has risen to 5 lakhs as against 1½ lakhs of rupees in the past. The Government has also purchased aeroplanes for the use of the Ministers.

Minister for Irrigation: No, it is not a fact. The hon. Member should see the Budget.

Shri Sri Chand: This item is included in the Budget. If the hon. Minister denies it, I would say that this Budget is also a forgery.

Minister for Irrigation: I would ask the hon. Member to study the Budget thoroughly.

Shrimati Shanno Devi: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to know if the hon. Minister is permitted to interrupt the hon. Member again and again.

Mr. Speaker: All members have equal rights. Now I call upon Shri Prabodh Chandra to speak.

Sardar Achhar Singh: I would request the Chair to allow time to the members of the Opposition also.

Mr Speaker: Order, please Order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (Hindi): Sir before I proceed with my speech I would like to congratulate the Members of the Opposition Party not because they have offered constructive suggestions to the Government but because they have spoken in the manner of a narrator of the tales from the Arabian Nights who at the end abruptly remarks that the night passed off and they woke up. I feel that they were narrating their dreams before the House. My Communist friends

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always talk according to their own ideology irrespective of whether it is right or wrong. In this connection I am reminded of a couplet which says :

नां खिज़ां में है यहां तीरगी नां बहार में यहां रौशनी
 यह नज़र नज़र के चराग हैं कहीं बुझ गये कहीं जल गये ।
 नां धिन्नां में है जहाँ उरगी नां घर में जहाँ रोशनी
 जेठ नज़र नज़र के चराग हैं वही बुझ गये वही जल गये ।

It is but natural that a person will only say what he thinks.

My hon. Friend who just preceded me had the temerity to make such allegations against the Government as contain not an iota of truth in them. During the course of his speech he said that there is a deficit of 88 crores of rupees in the Budget. When I heard him saying this I was simply amazed and I was reminded of a story which I would like to narrate before the House. There were two persons. One of them said two and two make four but the other differed from him, contending that two and two make three. Both of them exchanged hot words and bragged about their superior knowledge. They challenged each other and laid a wager of Rs. 500/- to be given to the person who was right. At this time some persons happened to be passing by. Both of them referred their dispute to those persons who unanimously said that the person who said that two and two make four was right. The person in whose favour the decision was given demanded Rs 500/- from the other fellow. That fellow having lost the bet retorted, "Well, I do not agree that two and two make four, so I shall never give you the money unless you make me agree to this point". It was plain that he would never feel convinced of the truth. Similarly our Communist Friends whose ideology and ours are poles asunder, would, never applaud the actions of this Government however right they may be. They look towards Moscow which is their Mecca and the fountain head of all orders and inspiration. I would submit, Sir, that if they have been allowed to express their ideas without any let or hindrance they should have also the patience to listen to our speeches.

Sir, we have been listening to their speeches even though they were quite irrelevant to the subject under discussion but I am sorry to say that they were interrupting me in my speech. Sir, I am bound by your order, otherwise I would have also acted in the same manner and would have made it difficult for the hon. Members to proceed with their speeches.

Well, Sir, I have very carefully listened to the criticism made by the hon. Members opposite against the Government. It has become customary with them to criticise every act of the Government and at the same time Government is also accustomed to listen to it. In fact, howsoever

balanced the Budget may be they must play their role. I do not maintain that there are no omissions and commissions in the present Budget (*Interruptions*). My hon. Friends need not get restive. The Congress is wont to hear such criticism and is not afraid of it. But I have risen to support the Budget.

My hon. Friend opposite has remarked that among other things the Congress promised to bring about *Ram Rajya* in the Country and that under it every body would be provided with food, clothing and shelter. I may inform him that the Congress still stands by its commitments. But it requires reasonable time to fulfil its pledges. The difficulty however is that gentlemen responsible for passing such remarks seem to owe allegiance to some alien power.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Sir, may I know the names of the hon. Members who owe allegiance to foreign countries?

Mr Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member not to indulge in controversial matters and confine himself to the Budget only?.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Well, Sir, while making a reference to the cause of Harijans, the Leader of the Opposition alleged that Harijans have not been treated well. I would like to know, Sir, whether it is only today that he has felt this? Why he did not invite the attention of the Government to their cause when he held the office of a Parliamentary Secretary in the Unionist Government and the Harijans were subjected to a good deal of repression then?

Sardar Gopal Singh : Sir, may I know under what rule is the hon. Member allowed to make personal references?

Mr. Speaker : Every hon. Member has the right to speak for and against a motion. I would however ask the hon. Member to desist from referring to anybody by name.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I was submitting, Sir, that they should not indulge in criticism for the fun of it but their criticism should always be of a constructive nature. I make bold to say, Sir, that no Government in similar circumstances could present a better Budget than the one under consideration of the House. Then, Sir, in order to step up production of foodgrains, canals are needed and for canals technical aid and equipment are required. But for all this and for the implementation of these schemes, the Government stands in need of money. Now if the Government

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resorts to raising of loans for the purpose of financing such productive schemes, then where is the harm in doing so, but now our Friends must make the Government the target of their criticism for this.

Again, Sir, it has been alleged that Government is responsible for the existence of communalism in the Government offices as well as outside. In this connection I may state for the information of my hon. Friend that our Government has got a Sikh as Chief Secretary and also a Sikh as Home Secretary. (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member to be relevant?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, should I talk those things which are palatable to the Opposition? What I mean, Sir, is that our people may belong to any creed but their nationality should at all costs remain Indian and not Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. If our country has to make any headway we should exorcize this evil spirit of communalism out of our body politic. I am grieved to find that communalism does exist in our State and it is only because of the lenient attitude of our Government in this connection. I know the Government did not pursue the case against Master Tara Singh perhaps out of fear that the situation might take a serious turn but I feel that if the registration of this case by the Government was not held valid, the Government should have expressed regret for this unlawful act on their part.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member not to discuss this topic please?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, what I mean to submit is that if Government levelled charges against a big leader of the status of Master Tara Singh, then it should have either proved or withdrawn them.

Sardar Sarup Singh : Is it proper on the part of the hon. Member to say an obnoxious thing? He should withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has not used language derogatory to Master Tara Singh. On the contrary he is of the opinion that the Government should have felt sorry for this unlawful act on its own part.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Then Sir, the people, who allege that communalism is rampant in our State, should prove their allegation

by way of quoting particular instances. Sir the foundationstone of this evil was laid by the British Government in order to gain their own ends but we must put an end to it.

Then, Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Government has stopped the unwholesome practice of allowing special pays to officers which had been started by the Britishers. I also appreciate the measures of the Government for placing the Vernacular Teachers at par with Anglo-Vernacular Teachers in regard to their grades of pay. Then, Sir, it is common knowledge that our Government has done its utmost to alleviate the distress of the famine stricken people of the Hissar District. It has done all that was possible, though it had to face many practical difficulties. It goes to the credit of our Government that inspite of an acute shortage of foodgrains, not even a single person died of hunger. In case our Government had failed to take adequate measures to meet the situation, I would have been the first person to express my resentment against it. But, Sir, we see that the Opposition is making a false propaganda against our Government on this issue. Now the public is quite awakened and can well understand these tactics which will not succeed.

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon Sardar Achhar Singh to speak.

Sardar Achhar Singh (Ajanala) (Punjabi) : Sir, while going through the budget presented to this House, one comes to the conclusion that it is a Budget of a bureaucratic Government. A Budget, which favours bureaucracy, can not be claimed to be a budget for the welfare of the general masses. The funds are being raised by taxing the poor people and are intended to be spent for the betterment of the bureaucratic class. This argument of mine is fully supported by the fact that the hon. Minister for Finance did not care to go through this Budget before it had been printed. If you go through the new expenditure for this Government, you will find the following at page 158:

After the partition the responsibility of the Punjab C.I.D. increased enormously in the matters relating to security intelligence which did not form part of the duties of the C I. D. of the United Punjab. The thirteen districts which now form part of our State have always been a storm centre of all political and criminal activities even before the partition. All terrorist and other activities of a subversive nature had their origin in the Doaba and Malwa Districts. Experience has shown that even after partition these elements have continued to give trouble in one form or the other and in this way they have been joined by the communists.

Had our hon. Minister for Finance perused it before its printing. these lines would not have been there. Therefore, Sir, according to this, these hon. Members of the Congress Party, who had been

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fighting for the freedom of the country before partition and among them you are also included, are being blamed for indulging in political and communal activities. Is it not regrettable to find the hon. Speaker and the hon. Ministers being given such a certificate by the Government? This is evidence of bureaucracy in action. In fact we feel ashamed of such a note appearing in an important blue print according to which the hon. Ministers and the hon. Speaker are given the label of criminals!

Further, Sir, it is stated there "The strength of the C. I. D. is based on the national division of the Punjab." That shows, Sir, that Congress Government has admitted the two nation theory. The very ideology which the Congress had been opposing has been supported in these lines which are presumed to be written by or with the consent of the Minister for Finance. This has hurt us very much. Now, we learn, Sir, that the hon. Minister has sent a telephonic message to the press to treat this passage as not existing in the Volume of New-Expenditure as the Government now feels that this paragraph should not have been there and that it had been printed by mistake.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. My submission is that unless the hon. Member has got some authentic materials which he is prepared to lay on the Table of the House, he is not entitled to make such statements in the House.

Mr. Speaker : This is no point of order. The hon. Member should proceed with his speech.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Well, Sir, the Department of Public Relations, Punjab had been directed to propagate the Congress policy, right from the time when the Bhargava Ministry had come into power (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches to hear very quietly and patiently to what the hon. Member has to say and not interrupt him. They will have time and chance to reply to what he says.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, in support of what I have said, I can quote a letter which was issued by the Government to the Director of Public Relations soon after the present Ministry had been sworn in. The letter runs as follows :-

Subject : Supply of anti-communist literature from head office for Departmental Reading Rooms and other libraries.

Please see that particular care is taken and proper discrimination exercised in the distribution of anti-communist literature. It should not be sent to any M. L. C. or M. L. A. You should also see that any of the individual or Institutions which is likely to have unfavourable reactions to these publication is eliminated from the distribution.

No PR (P.S.) 52/10036 dated 6th May.'

Then, Sir, I wish to make it clear that our Ministers are tools in the hands of the officials who make them do things as they desire. Can't our Ministers assert and prepare the budgets themselves instead of depending upon the officers?

Minister for Finance : It is not a practicable suggestion. Anyhow we take full responsibility for what the budget contains.

Sardar Achhar Singh : What I wish to drive at is that the interests of the poor should not be ignored in any case. So far our Government has been in the habit of doing so. It has never cared to protect the interests of the poor from being sacrificed at the altar of the rich and powerful people. For instance, take the case of nationalization of transport in the State. Who does not know that there exist big mills like the one at Dhariwal? But nobody cares to nationalize them in the first instance. On the other hand the first item that has caught the fancy of the Congress Government for nationalization is that of Motor Transport in which innumerable ex-servicemen, agriculturists and poor refugees have invested their small savings. The Transport Minister threatened these poor people in his newspaper—appearing on the 18th March, just after the elections, that those who did not vote for the Congress would be.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not allowed to quote from a newspaper. He should avoid all such references.

Sadar Achhar Singh : Sir, my submission is that the Government should first lay its hands upon those mills and factories which are under the control of big capitalists. In order to achieve that object the first

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thing for the Government to do is to improve the conditions prevailing in its administration. The Irrigation Department is being run on bureaucratic lines. No attention is paid by the officers of this department to the conditions in which the canals are running. When a dam gives way, just as it did at Tibri in Gurdaspur district, no officer or Congress M.L.A. reached there in time to listen to the grievances of the people and afford relief to them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. When he makes a reference to the Congress M.L.A.'s I am naturally concerned because I represent that constituency myself along with Sardar Waryam Singh and Chaudhri Sundar Singh. We all went there and remained there up to eleven at night. He has not been there! (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Is the hon. Member going to controvert every statement that he makes ?

Sardar Achhar Singh : Well, I leave aside the Irrigation Department and come to the Police. The attitude of the policemen is not at all satisfactory. It is the same old imperialistic attitude. At Attari, for example two blackmarketeers were killed and the whole of the village was a witness to this murder. But the police instead of hauling up the offenders, inflicted a heavy fine on the whole village. A deputation of the people of Attari waited upon the Government but to no purpose. I would impress upon the Government that an enquiry committee should be set up by it in order to hear the grievances of the people and suggest means for redressing them.

Then, Sir, it has been stated that we only criticise the Government and do not give any constructive suggestions. As a matter of fact the boot is on the other leg. When we make speeches, the Ministers do not care to listen to them. Even now the Ministerial Benches are almost empty. It appears that all the seven Ministers have gone out to receive and bring in the eighth Minister who is being sworn in to-day at Raj Bhawan (*Laughter*).

(An hon. Member : He need not worry. The notes of the speeches are taken and every point will be replied to.) Anyhow, I am of the view that the allegation that the Members of the Opposition have put forth no useful or constructive suggestions is baseless. If the Government wants me to repeat them in brief, I can do so. The first is that a sum of Rs. 19,26,210 which is paid as Jagirs to those who rendered services to the British Government during the Mutiny of 1857 or on other occasions of this sort should be immediately saved to the Exchequer.

Mr. Speaker : I wish that the hon. Member should not refer to the first war of Indian independence waged in 1857, as a 'mutiny'.

Sardar Achhar Singh : I am sorry Sir, it is just a slip. My point is that all Jagirs and Muafis should be withdrawn and the amount thus saved should be utilized at such places as Hissar.

My second suggestion is that foreign competition in the industrial or commercial spheres should not be allowed to strangle our nascent industries. The third suggestion which I would like to make is with regard to the tenancy problem confronting our State. The ejection of tenants should be stopped and they should be made the owners of the lands they cultivate. Those 'goondas' who are harassing them should be severely dealt with. Another suggestion is that landlordism should be abolished without any compensation. I wish to refer to the report on the work of the Sarvodaya Samaj compiled by Shri Thakur Dass of Uttar Pradesh in connection with.....

Minister for Finance : Sir, is it relevant ?

Sardar Achhar Singh : Sir, we cannot help reaching the conclusion that it is neither a plan for the people nor by the people.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is quite irrelevant.

S. Achhar Singh : Sir, in the end I wish to submit that the suggestions I have put forth should receive the careful consideration of the Government if it wishes to serve the people. With these words I resume my seat.

Shri Jagat Ram (Hoshiarpur) (Hindi) : Sir I rise to offer my special congratulations to the hon. Minister for Finance for presenting this budget. My reason for offering my special felicitations is this. I have been under the impression that since the people of the Punjab were groaning under the heavy weight of taxes, there was no room for levying any other tax on them. But thanks to the shrewdness of our Finance Minister, he has after all succeeded in finding out a way to saddle the people of the State with another tax. But may I respectfully ask through you, Sir, on whom will the incidence of this tax fall ? If you just take the case of Simla into consideration, do you think that it will be the people occupying luxurious flats on the Mall, who will be called upon to bear this tax ? Obviously, not ! It is the poor people living in the Lower Bazar or the Cart Road who would be hit hard by this tax. The people residing in Tuti Kandi, Kaithu or Sanjauli will also suffer from this tax. So it is evident that people who will be adversely affected by this tax are the common people and not the millionaires or the Capitalists. It is obvious that the rich people like those who live on the Mall will escape this tax, and naturally they cannot have any sympathy for those living on the Cart Road. (*Cheers*).

Then, Sir, the question of nationalisation of motor transport has come in for a good deal of discussion. Many things have been said by my hon. Friends over there. I would also like to make a few observations about this subject. Now, Sir, it is a well known fact that the roads and Government buildings have been nationalised and the Public Works Department is in charge of them. But what is the state of affairs ? Corruption is rampant in this Department and the people of the State are sick of it. (*Cheers*). Then take the case of Railways. They have been nationalised since long. But corruption has taken

strong roots in this department. That is why the railway fares are always on the increase. In the absence of corruption the railway fare per mile could not exceed 4 or 5 pies, but as a result of this evil the fares are mounting at the cost of the poor people. In this way I can quote many other departments, like the Irrigation Department etc., which have been nationalised, but they are the hot beds of corruption. The Bhakra-Nangal project is another which is too well known for its wasteful expenditure. Similarly I am of the opinion that if motor transport is nationalised, we will be creating another department where corruption, favouritism and nepotism will have a free play. (Cheers).

But I have no mind to pronounce an opinion and then leave the matter. I would suggest the real solution of this baffling problem. We should first invite tenders from private transport companies for a certain number of routes. The contract should be given to that company which is prepared to afford the maximum comforts and amenities to the passengers and yet charge the minimum fare. Such an arrangement will not only provide relief and satisfaction to public but will also bring a substantial income to the exchequer. (Cheers). I, therefore, submit that the pressing need of the present moment is that the affluent dwellers of the Mall Road should be first nationalised. Not only this. The services be nationalised. In this connection I am reminded of my first visit to Simla in 1948. When for the first time I stood at the Scandal Point, the whole Mall appeared to me bearing a close resemblance to an American Bazar, particularly of San Francisco. I for a moment forgot whether I was in India or in some foreign country. Only the people, their complexion and flesh were Indian, but their movements, manners, fashion etc. were all foreign. It is so even now. By mentioning this what I want to drive at is that what is urgently needed to be nationalised is not the motor transport etc. but our hearts and brains—the brain of Government which works and runs the administration. (Cheers).

The House will agree with me that the problems confronting us

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require more of our seriousness than our zeal to deal with them. The hon. Ministers are aware that the masses who have returned them to the Legislature want them to alleviate their distress, want them to place their difficulties and other problems before the Government. All these things require our undivided attention and seriousness, if they are to be properly dealt with. I, therefore submit at the cost of repetition, that before nationalising transport industry etc., Government should endeavour first to nationalise our brains and services

Sir, as regards services, I regret to say the All India Service personnel insisted under duress on entering into a covenant or contract with the Government of India through the British bureaucrats so that their conditions of service and cadre etc., should not be disturbed and that they should be allowed to continue as they were in the time of the British. The pity of it is that the Government also regards this covenant as most sacred and inviolable. May I know whether the scrapping of the lakhs of mortgage deeds, rights of Inheritance and Malkana with one stroke of the pen did not constitute a violation of sacred contracts. When the Government freed the debtors from the payment of debts amounting to lakhs and crores of rupees, was that not breach of contract with the *Sakukars*?

Now when the Government is out to abolish Zamindari, will, it not tantamount to an infringement of contract? I, therefore, fail to understand why the Government should consider the contract with the services as so sacred!

The members of the services are own kith and kin and all of us should make some contribution towards the service of our motherland. The entire system has to be gradually changed. Those at the top will have to be brought down and those at the bottom will have to be raised. Unless both these things are done simultaneously the existing disparity between the "haves" and the "have-nots" will not disappear.

Now I wish to say a few words about Kandi (the sub mountainous area) in Hoshiarpur District. It stretches from the Sutlej to the Beas. The people in this area are in such a pitiable condition that the hon.

Members will be shocked to hear about it. In Hissar it is the cattle who are dying but in Kandi of Hoshiarpur District scores of people die of starvation every day.

Before partition about 1,50,000 *Gujjars* lived in this village. They migrated to Pakistan. After the influx of refugees from the West Punjab, the Rehabilitation Department sent such people to settle there who were not accustomed to the conditions of that place. After they left that place, a major portion of fertile land in this area became abandoned and it is now lying uncultivated. About ten or twelve thousand people who are still there are undergoing various hardships. Fertile lands are lying uncultivated and the forests are spreading. Wild beasts roam about at night and the poor farmers have to engage watchmen for the purpose of protecting their fields, during the night. On the top of it, their life has been made still more difficult by the cancellation of arms licences in large numbers. Consequently they are finding it hard to protect themselves from the depredations of the wild animals. I would request the hon. Minister for Development to accompany me and see the condition of the people at the spot. The forests have become so dense that in some cases they do not admit of any passage for crossing them. Jackals, pigs and nilgais and other beasts destroy fruit and foodgrains grown by the people, the leopards carry away the domestic animals. I hope this matter will receive the proper attention of the Government.

About the Rehabilitation Department the less said the better. I have come across people carrying bundles of copies and receipts of registered letters sent by them to the Rehabilitation Department but they never receive any reply, despite repeated reminders. I am constrained to remark that in the matter of allotment of lands, a large number of displaced persons have been separated from their relatives. If one brother has been allotted land in the East of State the other has been settled in the West. If an influential person approaches the officers, he can get the land of his choice by dislocating the people already settled on it. I shall request the Government to solve this problem very carefully and sympathetically. If it is not solved in the proper manner discontent among the displaced persons is bound to increase. The Government should constitute a committee of responsible persons for finding out proper and suitable solution of this problem.

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Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words with regard to the Police. I do not say that the sum of Rs. 274 lacs, earmarked for the Police, is too large. If the Government were to advertise in the newspapers that it wanted to recruit some honorary policemen, it would receive a large number of applications. It is due to the fact that the policemen make so much money by unfair means that it is not considered necessary that a regular salary should be attached to these posts. The policemen more often than not commit atrocities on the innocent people. In this connection, I want to narrate a true incident, without mentioning any names. A certain displaced person came to a village with his wife and two children and settled there. Being penniless he started working as a labourer. His daughter, who was only nine or ten years old, also began to earn a few rupees by cleaning utensils at the house of an assistant Sub-Inspector of police. That police officer lost his watch. He suspected that girl of having stolen it and mercilessly gave her a severe beating, in order to extort a confession from her. She was so much terrified that in order to escape beating she said that she had stolen the watch. She was asked to produce that watch but on her inability to do so she was suspended in a well with her legs upwards. On hearing her shrieks, people from the locality reached the spot and got her released. Some time later the wife of that assistant Sub-Inspector produced the watch which had been misplaced by her. The Government is responsible for all the virtues as well as ills in the administration which it has inherited and it is its duty to eradicate all those evils. A few months ago, when there was the President's rule in the Punjab, a large number of traders were arrested under the Punjab Public Safety Act. People heaved a sigh of relief and they thought that perfect justice like what it was in Yudhishtira's days was going to be administered but soon after, all the arrested persons were released. It shows that either some innocent and respectable persons were unnecessarily arrested or the culprits were allowed to go scot-free. In either case it was not proper for the Government to act in that manner.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the working of the Public Works Department. As an indication of the integrity of its staff I might repeat what Shri Brish Bhan, former Deputy Chief Minister of Pepsu, told us on the occasion of the last visit of the Prime Minister of India to Ambala. According to him estimates were called for from the P. W. D.

for the construction of a Hall at Patiala. The P. W. D. calculated that it would cost Rs. 96,000/-. When asked to reconsider the matter and give a revised estimate, the reply was received that the proposed building could in no case cost less than Rs. 96,000/-.

Shri Brish Bhan told us that later on they got the same building constructed at a cost of Rs. 50,000/- only. Is it with the help of this kind of personnel that the Government proposes to launch schemes of nationalisation? I am of the view that before embarking on any such venture, Government must nationalise the services and the brains of its officials.

Last but not least, I want to refer to our antiquated and rotten system of education, which is the root cause of all this unemployment among the educated young men. Under this system the day a young man completes his studies after having exhausted the slender resources of his parents and succeeds in getting a degree, he fails in the battle of life. He is no longer welcome in his home and after having been driven out from there wanders in vain in search of a job and is greeted with a "no vacancy" notice everywhere. Down to the dust crash all his idealistic visions, hopes, aspirations and cravings. Was this the sort of career that we wanted to assure for our children in free India?

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar (Taran Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir first of all I want to congratulate the Finance Minister not on having presented this Budget but on the excellent manner he read his Budget speech (*laughter*). So far as his Budget is concerned we are not, at all, satisfied.

When we left for Simla, eyes of the public were fixed on the forthcoming Assembly Session and they were full of hopes of a remedy to all their ills being discovered in it. A few days before my departure I had an opportunity to be present at two gatherings of villagers in my constituency. I was commissioned by the people assembled there to convey to them as early as possible on my return any good news concerning their interests.

Most of the members of this House and the people at large had high hopes of at least one thing viz., announcement of a reduction in the rate of *abi ana* but I am sorely disappointed to find that this Budget,

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which was prepared in consultation with the former State Congress Chief and its former General Secretary, does not contain any such decision despite the clear verdict of the Punjab State Congress on this issue (*Cheers from the Opposition benches*). It is a pity that enhancement made in the rate of *abiana* still continues.

Well, Sir, some of my hon. Friends are under the impression that the Government charges the peasants for canal water only. But I think the *zamindars* have to pay to the Government a tax even for the water that their crops get from rains. (*More cheers*). Of course I am referring to the land revenue realised from the *barani* lands. Then, is there a single farmer who has not had a bitter experience of the kindness of the Irrigation Department and its whims? Water supply from non-perennial canals is stopped all of a sudden by this department in the month of October when the sowing operations are just complete. It does not care that the sudden stoppage of water supply would cause damage to the *Rabi* crops.

This year water supply was not resumed till the middle of April. This resulted in damage to the *Rabi* crops of those peasants who had sown them rather late and in the inability of theirs to sow *Kharif* crops in time. If such irregularities were committed by any public welfare department of the Government in towns, it would have been served with notice after notice by the affected people and might have been sued for damages. If the Minister for Irrigation accompanies me to my *ilaga* I can show him channels from which people hoped to get water to irrigate their fields but which are giving them sand only. (*Cheers*).

The other day the hon. Minister for Public Works had stated that the engineers in the service of this Government were so capable that the services of one of them had been requisitioned by the United Nations Organisation. I do not doubt his statement but I would urge upon him to send that able engineer also to the U.N.O., who is responsible for making this excellent seating arrangement which leaves no passage for some Members to go out to the lavatory except, of course, by treading upon the toes of others. (*Laughter*).

Now, I am not at all in favour of nationalisation of motor transport because this is likely to add to the prevailing corruption in the administration and result in the diminution of amenities for the public. Past

experience warns us against embarking on such schemes. Any one who has had an occasion to travel by a Government omnibus to Tarn Taran on "*Amavash*" or "*Purnamashi*" days will take a vow not to vote for nationalization of road transport. So much is the inconvenience that he will have to undergo as a result of the passengers being packed like hay in a gunny bag.

I am also opposed to the levy of a tax on the poor passengers travelling by buses. (Cheers). It is absolutely uncalled for and improper.

Minister for Development : Is it not proper that when weighty persons like the hon. Member travel in buses, they should be taxed.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : A normal healthy person is bound to be weighty and will remain so until he falls a prey to diabetes, as is the case with the hon. Minister for Development.

Well, Sir, in this connection I would like to remind the Government that some time back when the question of nationalization of road transport came up for its consideration it was then decided that the Government officers, should consult the transport operators and arrive at some mutual agreement in this matter. The transport operators are not aliens. They are also the subjects of this State and as such they must be consulted before any final decision is taken in this matter. I am sure that they will be able to suggest ways and means by which Government could get more revenues under this scheme. Moreover, I may submit that in Bengal there are all Bengalis, in Behar there are all Beharis but Punjab is a State which is inhabited by people of different communities and they are Punjabis in name only. What I wish to drive at is that we have already seen the harmful effects of communalism resulting in partition of the country in 1947. Afterwards an effort was made to get rid of communalism and even it has not been given any place in our Constitution. In 1947 a formula for the representation of certain communities in the cabinet was devised and the present Chief Minister observed it in letter and spirit in 1948 while constituting his cabinet. But now we find that our hon. Chief Minister has formed his cabinet not on communal lines, but contrary to the provisions of the formula referred to by me.

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I know it for certain that all members of this House detest communalism because they know that it impedes the progress of the nation. Punjab is infact for all Punjabis. But still when the present ministry was formed, people rebelled against the idea of taking all urbanites excepting one in the cabinet, specially when a fairly large population in the Punjab lived in villages. Besides this the Government has not even taken any representative of the backward *ilqa* of Kangra in the cabinet. Then, Sir, I submit that a provision of 3, 11 lacs of rupees has been made in the Budget to be spent on the Capital project at Chandigarh. I think that by constructing such a Capital the Government has put an increasing drain on its Exchequer. I would request the Government that a deficit State like ours should not be burdened with big loans from the Central Government. The present financial position of the State, as revealed by the hon. Finance Minister, is such that it cannot even pay the interest of the loans raised by it. In the end, I would draw the attention of the Government to the difficulty which is being experienced by the people of my *ilqa*. They are challaned by the canal authorities if their cattle are drinking water on one side of the canal and in case they go to the other side of the canal they are challaned by the Forest authorities. The Government should take steps in this direction to remove their difficulties.

S. Sarup Singh (Amritsar, City East) : Sir, if we peruse this Budget, you will find that the Government has confessed that it has mortgaged the present of the Punjab for its future. You will, I think, Sir, agree with me that the Punjab is not the self-acquired property of the present Ministry and surely they have no right to mortgage it or its assets in any manner they like. If at all they have to mortgage it, then they must mortgage it for necessity and the conception of necessity is a legal one. It is strictly defined and unless they circumscribed their activities within those limits, I am afraid, they will be wasting the assets of the State. Sir, I would like to elaborate my point. At the moment this Budget reveals that the Punjab is under a debt of Rs. 58 crores as it stood on the 1st of April 1952 as given in the Memorandum which forms an annexure to the Budget.

Now, Sir, they propose to spend two crores out of this loaned money

during the current year on the construction of the Chandigarh Project

I think, Sir, that no man, in his senses would agree that it is a necessary expenditure when you cannot afford money for your hospitals. According to my calculation the State Government is spending at present two annas per head of the State population on medical treatment and I know that at Amritsar when emergency arises or when cases of a serious nature are taken to the hospitals, they have no beds to meet these emergencies. Moreover when the school education is so much neglected and when the State is already under heavy debts, they are incurring a further loan of Rs. 2 crores so that they could build palaces and provide other amenities which have no meaning at all for the man in the street. I am constrained to remark, Sir, that this expenditure is highly wasteful, highly extravagant and highly unjustified.

I come next to the Bakhra Nangal project for which a loan of rupees 23 Crores 66 lakhs has been incurred. As is well known, this project is a multi-State project and when it is completed, it is likely to benefit Pepsu and Rajasthan with the supply of water; and Delhi, Pepsu and Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and even some towns of Uttar Pradesh will benefit from the electricity to be produced from this project. Now when this project is going to benefit all the States that I have named above why should the poor Punjab with its depleted financial resources, incur all the debt, for its construction? That is beyond my comprehension, Sir.

I think Sir, the present Ministry owes an explanation, to the people of the Punjab and it would be advisable if they come out with a statement that they will not go on incurring the loans and debts for the construction of a project which is a multi-State project and which is going to benefit so many states. They should take up this case with the Central Government on the grounds that I have given above. It really stands to reason why should Punjab alone be asked to bear the burden of the cost of its construction when this project, on its completion, is going to benefit not only so many States but the Centre also? My feeling is that Central Government should be approached to bear some portion of the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the construction of the Bhakra Nangal Project because out of the electric power which this project is going to generate, the Centre is going to get all the income in the shape of Income-Tax and other taxes which the Centre

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may levy on the industries which will start operating with power supplied by this project. I, therefore, request that this highly scandalous state of affairs, as it stands today, should be stopped forthwith. I repeat why should this truncated, poor and uprooted Punjab bear the burden of a project which is going to benefit firstly the Government of India and secondly many towns of Uttar Pradesh, Himachel Pradesh, Delhi State, the PEPSU and Rajasthan? There is absolutely no justification for burdening the Punjab with this heavy debt.

Now, Sir, there is another thing which is indeed very disturbing. At the time of elections certain persons made very attractive promises to the Electorate that if they were returned to power they would bring radical changes in the administration and would strive their best to improve the conditions of masses, but as soon as they got into a position when they could do something, they suddenly changed their stand. I will quote some instances. The hon. Minister for Transport was very much against the construction of the Punjab Capital at Chandigarh and in fact he wrote so many articles and books against its construction but since he is a Member of the Cabinet now, he has ceased all oppositions to this project. On the other hand he is now party to that expenditure. Sir, I am afraid this is going to prove a very sorry state of affairs for the public life of this State and I daresay unless and until the conditions improve and the gentlemen who gave promises to the Electorate fulfil them, specially when they can do so without let or hindrance, we are going to be in trouble. Even, Sir, the hon. Minister for Development promised at Rayya Conference some time before the election that he would pledge his life for the reduction of *abiana* (water rates). But the *abiana* rate is still there and he is alive too.

Minister for Development : Sir the hon. Member is misstating the facts. I never said so. Probably my learned friend would have read this news from some Akali paper. What I said at that time was that I would try my level best to get the increased *abiana* reduced to the minimum possible extent.

Sardar Sarup Singh : Sir, this is wrong, but if my hon. Friend still wishes to fulfil that promise, I can give him a suggestion. I

wonder, Sir, if he is prepared to stake his ministership to get that *abiana* reduced. If he is, he can get the *abiana* reduced.

Mr. Speaker, Unless the Members who have come to this House after making certain promises to the Electorate, do not fulfil them, there is going to be a vicious circle whereby a group of persons may come into power after giving certain pledges to the Electorate and thereafter they may forget everything. Another group may make similar promises to the Electorate, turn out the previous ones and soon after they have been returned into power, they may also not care for the welfare of the masses. This vicious circle may go on and the result will be that the lot of the masses will never be improved and they will continue to suffer from misery and poverty.

There is another thing, which I want to say through you, Sir, to my friends occupying ministerial benches. They have gone to Delhi several times and I fail to understand as to why they have not been successful in pressing Punjab's case for increased grant from the Centre. They are without an exception, Sir, small statured men with quaking legs and with a beggar's bowl in their hands but in streamlined cars they go to Delhi, ask for grants but are 'pooh poohed' and then they suddenly say, "Please give us loans". In future, when they happen to go to Delhi, they must impress upon the Centre the gravity of the financial situation of the Punjab State and instead of taking with them a beggar's bowl and returning back with some loans which too they do not utilise properly they should ask for more grants. To begin with, they should get all loans converted into grants so that this poor State may not remain burdened with the loans for years together.

Now I want to say something in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. We have incurred a debt of rupees 4 crores and 27 lakhs on the Grow More Food Campaign. In fact, recently the Punjab has exported some wheat to Delhi. Therefore, if the Central Government or the rest of the country wants that this State should produce more food for them, why should they not make an additional grant to this State. Why should we incur debts to provide food to other States? We have enough food for our own purposes and if they want more wheat to be produced in the Punjab for the other States, then they must provide us with the necessary wherewithal to enable us to

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do so. It is highly unjust and unbearable that we should incur debts so that other States may have more grains. This is a very sorry state of affairs and this Budget presents a very alarming picture. Any one who is in his senses or who has any political integrity would not dare to congratulate this Government on the presentation of this Budget. However, we may take a lenient view of the hon. Minister for Finance's work because he has been at the helm of affairs for a very short time. But unless this alarming state of affairs is not remedied we think the prosperity of the Punjab would be a thing of the past. As a matter of fact, though I am not allowed to read out passages this Budget itself says that the prosperity of the Punjab would not be a reality unless all these debts and accumulated interests are paid and there is very little likelihood of their being paid in foreseeable time. In this way we are not only mortgaging our present but also mortgaging the future of generations to come and our children's future. I think Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has added insult to injury or rather has rubbed salt into the wounds of the poor employees of this state by paying 5 rupees more in the shape of dearness allowance instead of doing something solid for them.

Before I conclude my speech, I again emphasise that this State must approach the Centre for getting all the loans converted into grants and unless this is done, the party in power cannot claim that it is serving the interests of this poor State.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (*Hindi*). Sir, the Budget is being debated upon since yesterday from different points of view. The hon. Members of all shades and opinion have expressed their views in the House according to their own lights, some favouring the Budget and some opposing it. But our Ministers have already agreed to accept our legitimate demands. So, I would like to place before you, Sir, the views of the masses who have sent us here as their representatives. Well, Sir, my feeling is that the Budget falls short of the ideals of the Congress. It is true that very little time is left at the disposal of the Ministers to make any change in it. I would like to mention here the purport of what Mahatma Gandhi, in course of his speech made on the Independence Day in 1947 said. He remarked that a good Government was that which aims at the welfare of the village population.

Sir, when we examine this Budget in the light of this remark, we find that only small amounts have been provided for the benefit of the poor classes. For instance, a provision of rupees 8 lakhs has been made for the village *Panchayats*. This really is too small a sum for the purpose in a free democratic country. As a matter of fact this amount for thirteen districts is very little, when the Congress believes in the *Panchayat* Raj. But I must point out that the *Panchayats*, which are at present working, are of no utility to the masses. The *Panchayat* officers supervise the working of the village-*Panchayats* while sitting at their head quarters and cannot and in fact do not take the least interest in their working, as they should. For such attitude of the *Panchayat* officers the present Government is not to blame, because they were recruited by the predecessors of this Government. It would be better, Sir, not to allocate this sum of Rs. 8 lakhs to the existing *Panchayats*. I am of this opinion that in case this money is allowed to be spent on them, these *Panchayats* would, instead of proving useful, become a source of nuisance to the public. The people in the villages for whose benefit such *Panchayats* exist will be least benefitted. Therefore, our Government will be committing a blunder, if it places this amount at the disposal of the existing *Panchayats*.

Now, Sir, I would like to tell this House something regarding the people of the backward areas of our State which are situated beyond Ambala. These areas were neglected by the Punjab Government even during the pre-partition period. The public of these backward districts e.g. Gurgaon, Rohtak and Hissar now no longer expect to continue to be neglected from the present Government. It pains me very much to point out that after going through the whole budget I do not find any provisions having been made for the betterment of these areas. You would be surprised to note, Sir, that there is not a single high school even at the head quarters of the four *Tehsils* of these districts. In the absence of this the question of a college being established there does not arise at all. I find that the Hon. Minister for Public Works generally shows maps and photographs to the Hon. Members in this House, but to-day, I shall depict before him a picture of the working of of his department in our District. Sir, there is not even a single canal in the whole of the District of Gurgaon.

Minister for Finance : There is one canal which irrigates the area of Balabgarh in that district.

Shri Gajraj Singh : But that cannal comes from Uttar Pradesh. In 1935, a survey was got completed by the then Punjab Government for the Gurgaon project. The project had to irrigate 843 thousand acres of land in Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal districts. But nothing more than mere survey was done. Even the relevent papers of that scheme are not traceable anywhere. For full one month I have been after them. These are not even traceable in the Project Division. Therefore, Sir, I request the Government to take up that scheme in hand as early as possible, if it is anxious to uplift the people of that backward area. Moreover, the accomplishment of that Scheme will prove a paying proposition to the Government as well, and I am sanguine that it will not only pay back the whole expenditure incurred on it by the Government but also make a return to the extent of 5 to 100 times.

Mr. Speaker : Keeping yesterday's experience in view, I would suggest to the hon. Member to agree to the curtailment-limit for making speeches for each hon. Member to 10 minutes. I find that still a large number of hon. Members is anxious to speak and very little time is left. Tomorrow most of the time will be taken up by the Hon. Minister. I hope, the hon. Members will not misunderstand me. In case any hon. Member has any objection to my suggestion, I shall allow the speeches to be made without restriction as to time as at present.

Sardar Waryam Singh (Amritsar) (Punjabi) : Sir, Just as the Budget now before the house has ignored the poor people, similarly in the matter of allotment of time some of the back-benchers have been ignored. Anyhow this budget has neither in any way glorified the Finance Minister nor the Congress Party under whose regime it has been prepared and presented to this House. As for myself it was my earnest desire to see my party achieving renown and glory by bringing forward a budget which improved the lot of the poor in every respect. But I am constrained to remark that this budget in no way achieves this object. When I look at the present budget in the light of conditions prevailing in our State and the plight of the poor man as also the comfortable position of the rich.

I cannot help saying that.

खान पीन नूँ नूर भरी, धौण भनौन नूँ जुम्मा
 ਖਾਣ ਪੀਣ ਨੂੰ ਨੂਰਭਰੀ, ਧੌਣ ਭਨਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ ਜੁੱਮਾਂ

The Punjab for which this Budget has been prepared consists of the villages and the poor people inhabit them. It is not a Punjab of big businessmen and officers. As a matter of fact the man in the street has a far greater claim on the wealth of the State than the affluent people who are already in the enjoyment of amenities of life. But it is regrettable to note that this Budget does not take them into consideration. I am, therefore, of the opinion that it does not go to the credit of the Congress Party to have presented such a Budget.

In the recent elections the people of this State reposed their confidence in this party. So, we should work in such a way as not to betray their confidence or belie the hopes that they entertained in our capability to work for their good. We should try to understand the difficulties of the people living in the rural areas, as they have been ignored since long. The burden of providing a major portion of revenues to the State falls upon these people. They give *Abiana*, pay land revenue, *Panjotra* and local rates apart from various other taxes to the exchequer. They produce wealth for the nation. But they are not given adequate facilities or even the bare necessities of life. In the cities there is police to protect the people but in the villages the villagers have to work hard during the day and give ' *Thikri Pahra* ' at night so that thieves and burglars may not take away whatever little they possess.

The income of the State, which these poor persons augment with the sweat of their brow, is mostly taken away by the big officers of the Government appointed during the British Regime as they draw fat salaries and thrive at the expense of these poor people. Is it not a cruel joke that out of the total annual income of about 17 crores the General Administration should take away a big slice of the revenues amounting to Rs. 5,29,98,000 ? After partition while the landowners were allotted lands after applying cuts, the officers of the Government who were drawing two hundred and fifty rupees in the pre-partition days are now getting twelve hundred rupees. Why these rapid promotions? I would ask the Finance Minister to appoint an unofficial enquiry Committee to go into this matter.

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He should see things for himself also. Why is a sum of Rs. 2,73,64,000/- being spent on the Police which perpetrated cruelties on those who struggled hard to throw off the foreign yoke during the British days? Then, Sir, a sum of rupees fifty thousand only has been sanctioned for providing relief to the political sufferers. What is the necessity of giving such a petty amount to the political sufferers? Either the officers who were responsible for committing atrocities on the patriots like Mr. Jai Prakash Narain, Niranjana Singh Talib, Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew, Sardar Uddham Singh Nagoke and others in the Lahore Fort should be removed or this petty amount which is being offered to the political sufferers by way of relief should also be put in their pockets.

When I see this Budget from the political point of view I find that it is wanting in many respects. Most of the people in rural areas voted for the Congress because promises were held out to them that *Abiana* would be reduced. But now I find one of my hon. Friends remarking that there is no need or justification for doing so. I think the hon. Member is ignorant of the fact that the incidence of the *Abiana* falls upon the poor cultivator and not upon the big land owner.

Another matter which deserves the close attention of this House is the supply of water at cheaper rates. This is essential for purposes of giving a fillip to the Grow More Food Campaign. I feel that the officials working for the Grow More Food Campaign, launched by the State Government, have no other work except to draw paper plans. We are at present giving water to Pakistan. Why cannot we stop it? The electricity which we give to Pakistan is being charged for at the rate of eleven pies per unit while we are charging the rate of sixteen pies per unit here in our State. Why this discrimination? If the rates of water and electricity are not reduced, the Grow More Food Campaign will not receive the impetus required for its success.

Another submission of mine is that under the Congress Rule there should be no question of urbanites and ruralites. All things should be done purely on merit and particularly keeping the larger interests of the country, as a whole, in view. The poor should be helped and raised to the standards which we aim at. The urbanites should

co-operate in extending a helping hand to the poor people living in villages. At present I find that the attitude of the people in cities is not helpful towards the villagers. In Amritsar, for example, the refuse of the city which is of no use to the citizens themselves is being supplied at high rates to the *zamindars* who use it as manure. It is a thousand pities that the villagers who supply the city with all the vegetables and foodgrains required for the daily consumption of the inhabitants are not even entitled to take away this manure. Not only this; the agricultural produce which a *zamindar* takes to the city is subject to heavy octroi duty by Amritsar Municipal Committee. I would suggest that in order to afford some relief to the farmer this duty should be reduced. Such an attitude on their part is the source of the differences that at present exist between them.

Another matter that requires immediate action on the part of our Government is that of the location of the High Court. Simla in no case suits the poor *zamindars*. In order to make justice speedy and cheap to all the people in the State it is most essential that the High Court should be moved to the plains at an early date. The poor people cannot afford to come here. I hope the Government will pay immediate attention to this important matter.

Sardar Partap Singh (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, we all have been sent to this august House by our electors so that we may sit together, deliberate and formulate plans for the betterment of the masses. So it is the duty of every hon. Member to put forward constructive suggestions instead of picking up quarrels with others. It goes without saying that ours is a deficit State. The hon. Finance Minister, while presenting the Budget, made this fact clear in his speech that there was a lot of deficit this year in the revenues of the State. I would, therefore, like to make a few suggestions to make up this deficiency in our finances.

First, I take up the demand under Police. A very large amount has been earmarked in the Budget for this department. I think if we make a judicious use of the amount allocated for this

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purpose, then a good deal of money can be saved and utilised for the betterment of the people.

Then there is the department of Civil Supplies which administers controls on various commodities. I think that corruption is rampant in this department even more than in the Department of Police. I am, therefore, of the opinion that a substantial amount of money can be saved, if we avoid unnecessary expenditure incurred by this department, and the saving thus effected can be made use of in improving the hard lot of the backward areas.

I may tell the House, in passing, how the Civil Supplies Department itself encourages corruption. Hon. Members are well aware of the measures used by the ordinary shopkeepers and measures like the yard used by the cloth dealers. Ordinarily the yard stick made of iron does not cost more than four annas and the price of a weight ranges from four to twelve annas at the most. But when the Civil Supplies Department authorises a certain firm to supply these weights and measures to the people and puts a control over the supply, then what happens is that the prices charged by that firm for these articles shoot up. The controlled yard-stick ordinarily costing four annas is sold for Rs. 1/12 and the set of weights at Rs. 4/8. You will see, Sir, that if this is not black-marketing, then what else is it? I am clear in my mind that the department of controls has outlived its utility. It should be abolished without any delay. Besides, our State is surplus in food-grains. Why should we export food to other States and sell controlled food-grains at high rates to our own people? We should export only after we have kept the full quota for the consumption of our people. I feel that the abolition of this department will result in a large saving which can be utilised to balance our Budget and also we can enhance the provisions made for the beneficent departments. Not only this. The money thus saved should be spent for uplifting the backward classes like the *Harijans*. The Government should act upon the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi who always preached to the Congress workers to embrace the *Harijans* and serve them to ameliorate their condition. Now that the Congress is in power, it should try to give a practical shape to the advice of the Father of the Nation. In this connection I would like to make a few suggestions.

Government should not only remit the University fees of the *Harijan* boys, but also give them liberal remissions in fees when they join a school. Now what happens is this. At first the school authorities feel very reluctant to admit *Harijan* boys and to remit their fees. If under pressure they admit them, what they do is that they fail them at the annual examinations and then compel them to pay the fees if they want to continue their studies. This is really a great hardship for the *Harijans*. The next point is that Government has reserved a number of scholarships for the *Harijan* boys from the 9th class. I may state for the information of the House that the PEPSU Government is far more liberal than our Government in this matter. It awards scholarships to the *Harijan* boys from the first primary class. I request that the Punjab Government should also grant scholarships to the *Harijans* from the first primary class rather than from the 9th class, so that they may be able to make some head-way in education. Then, as I have already stated, University fees should be remitted to them. They should not be first charged and then asked to apply for the remission of the same, because it is very difficult for them to pay fees in advance. I hope the Government will take steps to mitigate the hardship of the *Harijan* boys in the matter of fees.

Then, Sir, Government has been very kind to reserve 15 per cent posts in the services for the *Harijans*. But I find that this percentage is found more or less on paper and not in actual practice. If we just cast a glance over the departments, we find that no responsible post is being held by any *Harijan* officer. As a matter of fact no *Harijan* officer has been placed in either the Provincial Civil Service or the Provincial Educational Service. Then although Government have issued orders for the recruitment of *Harijans* in higher posts in the Police Department, yet we find that the *Harijan* Police Officers are conspicuous by their absence in that department. I would draw the special attention of the Government to these points and would request it to see that the *Harijans* are given their due share in the services.

Then there are small peasants who are continuing to cultivate their lands in the old hackneyed style. I suggest that under the 'Grow More Food' scheme they should be imparted knowledge of

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better methods of cultivation, so that they may be able to increase their produce and thus help India to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains.

Sardar Uttam Singh (Sri Gobindpur) (*Punjabi*): Sir, through you, I wish to offer my congratulations to the hon. Minister for Finance for having presented a good Budget. I consider it to be a really constructive Budget because it contains adequate provisions for the development of beneficent departments like the Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operative Societies, Industries, and Civil Works. Not only this, every effort has been made to meet the demands of the Hissar famine. Then a handsome amount has been earmarked for introducing the scheme of Community Projects. All this indicates that Punjab will make progress by leaps and bounds. I have, therefore no hesitation in saying that this Budget is a constructive Budget in the real sense of the word.

The scheme proposed in it for advancing *Taccavi* loans to *Zamindars* and the amount of money provided for the construction of water outlets, roads and dispensaries in the rural areas clearly shows that the Budget will bring about prosperity and happiness in the State. In this connection I must also express my appreciation for the work done by the Government for the consolidation of holdings. The strict orders, issued by the Government to Tehsildars and Revenue Officers regarding the completion of this work with maximum speed indicate that the Government is very serious about it. I would, however, like to draw the attention of the Government to one or two difficulties of the *Zamindars*. The first of these is the increased water-rate. The previous Government brought about an increase of fifty percent in the water rates but at the time of doing so it was declared on its behalf that the increase was intended for one year only. It is very unfortunate that the increased rate is still being charged. Then, you will perhaps remember, Sir, that, some time back, our Prime Minister said in the course of his public speeches that the members of the Legislature should maintain regular contacts with the people of their constituencies so that they

could understand their needs and difficulties. So, when I complain about the increase in water rates on the floor of this House, I simply voice the feelings of the *Zamindars* and it is my duty to do so. I hope that the Government will give a sympathetic consideration to my suggestion.

Shri Amir Chand Gupta (Amritsar City Central) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the Budget under discussion is not such that it should be disliked by anybody. It reveals an attempt on the part of the Government to bring about progress in the State. The attempt may not be perfect but the evidence that it is there cannot be denied. I do not propose to dwell on the virtues of the Budget but shall like to draw the attention of the Government to some of its defects and shortcomings.

First of all, I deprecate any distinction being made between the rural and the urban people. Though I belong to an urban area, yet I believe that the uplift of the rural people should get priority. As a matter of fact no one will be more pleased than myself if the Government spends the maximum amount of money for the benefit of the rural people. There is one thing which is the concern of both the rural and the urban people alike and I want to draw the attention of the Government towards it. I am referring to trade. I belong to Amritsar, which used to be a very busy centre of trade in India. During the last five years there has been a general fall in trade, not only in Amritsar but in the whole of the State. This is not a thing which can be easily ignored. The importance of cities and states depends upon their trade and with its decline they lose it. In that case the people begin moving to other places. The Government should not be oblivious of the fact that trade in this State has declined during the last five years and if this deterioration is not checked in time, we will suffer irreparable loss. For this purpose, I do not propose any action which may not be possible within the provisions of this Budget. I only want that the restrictions on the trade should be relaxed. If that is done the trade will improve.

It goes without saying that the partition of the Punjab has been greatly responsible for the loss of trade but I feel that if controls are

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removed its recovery will be facilitated. There was a time when goods worth crores of rupees were exported out of Amritsar. I am not referring to export to foreign countries. I am speaking about the goods exported to other parts of India. Removal of controls will give a fillip to the trade, which is fast dwindling. This is a surplus State and the removal of controls is not an impossible proposition. If these can be removed in a deficit State like Madras, why is it not possible to do so in the Punjab? If the Government has any apprehensions about the results of the removal of controls, I think those are entirely unfounded. Any action in this direction will not only lead to an increase in the trade but will pave the way for the winding up of a department on which the Government is spending huge sums of money.

Now, I take up to the question of education. For the benefit of displaced students, the Government has been giving grants to schools and colleges. I am, however, sorry that these grants have now been stopped. This decision of the Government has hit the refugees hard because most of them are not in a position to pay the tuition fees of their children. The school and college authorities demand fees and I know of scores of students who are greatly worried on account of their inability to pay the same. I have spoken to the heads of many educational institutions about this matter but they find it difficult to remit fees in the case of a large number of students. If the number of students requiring concession were small, they might have found it possible to grant their request. But the difficulty is that the number of poor refugee students is so large that they cannot grant remission of fees without any financial assistance by the Government.

Now, as I have already stated, the grant that was given to educational institutions with the object of giving aid to refugee students has been stopped. I would urge upon the Government the necessity to restore it as early as possible so that boys and girls whose parents have been rendered destitute as a result of the Partition may not be deprived of education.

Secondly, I draw the attention of the Government to the inadequate number of schools in this State where many institutions run by the Mu-lims have vanished and their substitutes have not come into

existence though the emigrant population has been replaced by an equal number of Hindu and Sikh refugees. Consequently the existing schools are overcrowded and many children have to go without education owing to lack of accommodation in them. The only way out of this difficulty is to start the system of double shifts in all the schools of the State.

While I admit the need for giving necessary educational facilities in the rural areas, I would request the Government not to deprive the children so keenly desirous of getting education of the opportunity. This double shift arrangement will obviate the necessity of erecting new buildings which the Government is not in a position to do owing to the paucity of funds.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the decision of the Government to nationalize text-books is really praiseworthy but I am afraid the prices of text-books are still too high for the slender means of the parents. Children of poor parents are finding it difficult to purchase even second-hand books. I, therefore, suggest the appointment of a small committee to enquire into the margin of profit likely to accrue to the publishers who have been given contracts by the Government and explore the possibility of a further reduction in the prices of text-books.

Then the fees charged by the private institutions are much higher than the corresponding fees fixed for Government schools and colleges. Besides the regular dues, the parents of the students are called upon to make donations to the institutions. In this way education imparted by private institutions is much more expensive. Though on books the same fee is shown as is fixed by the Government, actually a much higher amount is realized in one form or the other. I am, therefore, of the opinion that some legislation should be introduced in this House to give the Government powers to exercise control over this mushroom growth of schools so that they charge the same fees as are in vogue in the Government Schools and give the students the same facilities as are given to them in the latter.

A few words about the wages of the school teachers and I have done. The idea of uniform scales for Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Teachers is a happy one and I welcome it. I sometimes wonder why such meagre scales of pay were originally

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sanctioned for teachers who are the real nation-builders. The need for encouraging them more and more need hardly be over-emphasised.

Shri Babu Dyal (Sohna) (Hindi) : Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister on having taken pains to prepare this Budget in a very short span of time. From the business point of view it is a deficit Budget. Barring one or two good proposals, for instance the decision to improve the scales of pay of teachers, the abolition of special pays etc., in all other respects it is a negation of the fundamental programme of the Congress, according to which the upliftment of the backward areas has always been among the foremost items.

I regret to point out, Sir, that this Budget contains no provision for the development of those parts of my district which yearn for even drinking water. While the Finance Minister is proud of having provided a sum of Rs. 22,52,90,000 under the capital expenditure for the construction of the Bhakra Dam indication of the continuance of the old policy of neglecting South-East Punjab which is backward in all respects is clearly seen from the fact that it is not proposed to give this arid tract any portion of the water supplies expected to become available on the completion of this Dam. Owing to the step-motherly treatment meted out to my district by the Governments of the Punjab, both past and present, it is lagging behind all other districts, be it the sphere of education, irrigation, Government services or industries.

In the month of "Jeth" when water in the pools dries up, people living in the villages of Nuh and Rewari Tehsils are at their wits' end as to where to get drinking water from. Thousands of them are forced to take brackish water and die of cholera. Can there be a greater injustice than that of deprivation of a million of people of water from Bhakra Dam—people who are always faced with the problem of getting even water for drinking purposes? Is it not a blow to the self respect of those Members who come from this district?

I would, therefore, request the Government to make arrangements for the supply of potable water there. Water survey operations should be carried on in the district of Gurgaon and arrange-

ments should be made for the sinking of tube-wells there. If this is not done, I would say that the Budget has not been prepared in accordance with the Congress policy.

We find that a provision of Rs. 73,01,300 has been made in the Budget for the Medical Department. Sometime back a request was made by the people of this *ilaga* to the hon. Minister for Finance when he visited this district that an X-Ray apparatus may be installed in the hospital at the headquarters of the district; but I am sorry to say that on studying the Budget I find that this ordinary request has also been ignored. Besides this, I find that the provision made in the Budget for Education is Rs. 1,98.60 lakhs. It is disappointing to find that out of this sum no educational facilities have been extended to the Gurgaon District. There are very few primary schools in the district and some private schools have been opened through the efforts of the public. The need for opening a Government college at Gurgaon is obvious. Though there is a private college at Rewari functioning on communal lines in the district yet it cannot cater for the needs of that district which has a population of 10 lakhs. The people of Gurgaon stood on their own legs and started an S. D. Guru Darona College with their money and furnished it completely but unfortunately they have no building of their own. The public requested the Government to provide the deserted building of the industrial centre at Gurgaon as a token of aid to this College. It is very much regretted that the Government sold this deserted industrial centre to the College for Rs. 1,72,000. Now the people of the district cannot run this college easily because they are poor.

Hence I suggest that the Government should take over this institution with the present staff. Then there is a sore need for a Girls' High School there. The District Board has passed a resolution to provide land and the Municipal Committee to donate rupees ten thousand. The Government should do something in the matter.

Our request for setting up an industrial centre at Gurgaon has also not been acceded to by the Government though enough land was available for this purpose. Moreover, a sum of Rs. 1,86.31 lakhs has been provided in the Budget on Building Works.

[Shri Babu Dyal]

I wonder why the grade of the overseers has been revised to Rs. 300 p. m. who misappropriate 5 percent of the amount for themselves when passing the bills of the contractors. My hon. Friend has rightly remarked that this nominal increase in the grade is just an eye-wash. I suggest that their pays should be reduced unless they give up this practice of bribery.

Mr. Speaker : Before I call upon any hon. Member to speak I hope the House will agree with me that we should congratulate the hon. Chief Minister on his attending the Assembly to day after his brief illness.

Chief Minister : Sir, through you, I thank the hon. Members for their good wishes.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh : (Moga-Dharamkote) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it would have been much better if some Congress member hailing from the Ferozepore *Ilaga* had voiced the grievances of the people of that *Ilaga* because his voice would have surely carried weight with the Government otherwise I know that the Government attach little importance to any proposal which emanates from the Opposition Party. But what I find is that very few Congress members were returned to the Assembly from this District and that is why a step-motherly treatment is being meted out to the people of this *Ilaga*. This district has given largest number of recruits for the army but I am sorry to say that the Government has not extended any educational facilities to this district. There hardly exists any school in this *Ilaga* within a radius of ten miles even though the Government's orders are to the effect that there should be a school within a radius of two miles. The Government should sanction a special grant for this border district so that it may not remain backward in education. Moreover, I may bring it to the notice of the Government that it had promised to reduce the land revenue of all villages in the erstwhile Kalsia State which has now been merged in the Punjab, but I regret to say that it has so far taken no steps in this direction.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, when I was a child I vividly recollect having heard a story of two Pandits who were great scholars in Sanskrit. They once entered into an argument on

some point. Both of them bandied words and bragged of their superior knowledge. They began to challenge each other to show their learning. At this one Pandit retorted, '*Uchro, Ghuchro, Dhuchro*'. The other fellow was amazed to hear these words and wanted to outwit him by saying, "*Eki meki dheki*". On this the supporters of the latter Pandit rejoicingly said that their Pandit had won the argument and possessed superior knowledge. This story is applicable to the members of the Opposition Party who want to establish their superiority over the Government like the second Pandit in the story related by me by being vociferous and making much ado about nothing.

Sir, the hon. Members of this House are well aware that the economic condition of the world especially of this country is far from satisfactory. Our State has since the partition received a great setback and our social and economic structure has become topsy-turvy.

So, keeping in view the heavy odds confronting this State and the trials and tribulations and sufferings which our Punjab had to undergo and also the masterly grasp of the financial situation by a Minister who himself happens to be a refugee and an expert in matters relating to commerce and industry, my hon. Friends while discussing the Budget should have put forward some concrete and constructive suggestions instead of making intangible criticism. A shrewd businessman knows very well that the availability of funds is absolutely essential for carrying on any industrial or commercial operations and for this purpose debt may have to be incurred. Well, Sir, the Bhakra Dam which will be the second of its kind in the world when ready will open the doors of prosperity and progress and it will not only rehabilitate the shattered economy of the Punjab, but will also confer immense benefits upon the vast multitude of uprooted Punjabis.

It is gratifying to observe that two model townships namely, Faridabad and Nilokheri have been set up by our Government. I feel that this fact should have been appreciated by my friends opposite, namely, that even in the face of difficulties our Government has been struggling hard to bring this State in line with the other States of India. In the joint Punjab most of the funds of the Government used to be spent on the single city of Lahore, which was the centre of education, trade and industry. But, as a result of partition we have

[Shri Abdul Ghani Dar]

been deprived of all those institutions. It is surprising, Sir, that my hon. Friend lost sight of this fact and stated that our Minister for Finance had not presented an 'Ujjal' Budget after his name. How I wish that my hon. Friend who spoke thus should at least have taken a lead in giving justification to his name 'Waryam' by performing some act of valour.

Again, Sir, great nations of the world live in their great and glorious deeds. The Taj, the Alora, the Ajanta and the Ugeshwari Caves and the Pyramids of Egypt bear testimony to this fact. Similarly, Bhakra and Nangal Projects, Nilokheri and Chandigarh will do the same. Despite huge influx of refugees in our State we find very few paupers and disabled among them. It is these people who desire to build a Capital of their own so that they may glorify the name of their State. This must be appreciated by my hon. Friends over there. Then, Sir, it has been pointed out that our Ministers are urbanites and are not familiar with the difficulties confronting the rural people. May I state for the information of my hon. Friend that five of our Ministers are displaced persons while the remaining three who belong to East Punjab hail from villages, and as such, they are fully alive to the fact that 80/p.c. of our population lives in villages and cannot be ignored. And it is these people who will be benefited most by such schemes as the Bhakra and Nangal Projects. After the execution of these schemes abundant water supply and electric power would be made available to the villages. But, it is difficult to convince the Opposition that wealth always flows from the village and not from the city and that on the prosperity of the former depends the prosperity of the latter.

Some hon. Members have raised objections to the provision of funds allocated to the Police Department. The defects in this Department which are imprinted on our hearts, are a legacy of the British regime. I do not mean that public should cease to make a protest against the high-handedness of and the atrocious treatment by the Police. Nevertheless, I wish to point out that we have been saddled with the heavy responsibility of maintaining law and order in the border State and in these circumstances the sum earmarked for this department is wholly justified. Again, Sir, their contention is that the Police Department is notorious for corruption. I admit, Sir, that corruption pervades every walk of life in the State. This

evil is so deeprooted that it does not spare even gentle and honest people. But our Chief Minister is determined to eradicate it root and branch and has suggested the formation of Public Relations Committees for this purpose. I would ask the hon. Members opposite to co-operate with us in this campaign, and if this evil is not exorcised we will end it ourselves.

Then Sir, it is the cherished desire of the Government to make our State prosperous and with this object in view it has started Community Projects in these *Ilagas* where they can prove most useful to the people. I offer hearty felicitations to the Finance Minister not because of the fact that this blue tome (volume of the Budget) is a divine book but, because it contains evidence of progressive steps proposed to be taken by the Government, for raising the standard of living of the down-trodden people and curtailing the unnecessary allowances drawn by the officers. This is a pointer to the radical changes to be brought about in the administration of the State.

Then Sir, previously people used to say that wealth and capital were being gradually drained out of our Country. But, now this has been stopped and under the able guidance of our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, foreign capital will start pouring in in our country. Amongst all other peace-loving nations our country is destined to play an important role in bringing about progress in the world and the credit for it goes to Pandit Nehru.

Then Sir, I feel gratified over Government's recent decisions about recruitment to services in the Punjab. Our Government has decided to fill every post strictly on merit. Henceforth only merit will count and there will be no place for favouritism and nepotism in regard to such recruitment. I hope every hon. Member will welcome this decision of the Government.

Now, Sir, I would like to mention the fact that certain high officers in the State have been guilty of committing various forms of irregularities in the allotment of lands. This is a well-known fact, though Government may admit it or not. It pains us to see that even upto this time the Government has not been able to rehabilitate all

[Shri Abdul Ghani Dar]

the refugees. Thousands of them are still in great difficulty in my *Ilaga*. I request the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation to take very early steps to rehabilitate them.

The inhabitants of the constituency from which I have been elected are mostly Meos. Their mode of living is thoroughly Indian. At the time of partition, owing to the sudden change in the general conditions, the very neighbours of these people with whom they had been maintaining happy relations during the last so many centuries, lost confidence in them. Before 1947, they were permitted to graze their cattle in the jungles and were free to collect fuel wood from these for their domestic use but from 1947 they have not been permitted to do so. They are now feeling greatly handicapped in this respect. I hope the hon. Minister incharge will take steps to remove their difficulties.

Then, in order to help the refugees who are yet in a miserable plight, I request the Government to remit the small loans given by it to them and also try to secure remission of large loans from the Government of India.

I also want to draw the attention of the Government to the miserable condition of those 20 thousand residents of Panipat, who were forced to move to Uttar Pradesh in the year 1947, when communal frenzy was at its peak in this State. They have not been given back their lands. I would therefore, request the Government to take early steps for the restoration of their lands to them. I regret to say that upto now justice has not been done to them.

In order to eradicate corruption from the State, I request the hon. Ministers to form a tribunal consisting of retired Judges of the High Court or Supreme Court to try such of the past and present Ministers who are alleged to have been corrupt or indulging in black marketing and punish those who are found guilty of either of these offences.

Further, Sir, I am surprised to see in this House even those hon. Members criticising the Government policy of nationalization of Motor Transport, who profess to favour nationalization of all enterprises in the State, whether it be transport, land or industry.

It is strange, Sir, that on the one hand they raise slogans of nationalization of everything, while on the other, they oppose the Government for nationalizing the Motor Transport. Obviously their actions belie their professions. They cannot mean what they say. I would, therefore, ask them to change their outlook with the change of time.

ਐ ਫਲਕ ਤੂ ਭੀ ਬਦਲ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਮਾਨਾ ਬਦਲ ਗਿਆ

ਏ ਫਲਕ ਤੂ ਭੀ ਬਦਲ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਮਾਨਾ ਬਦਲ ਗਿਆ

Much has been said in praise of the Motor Transport Company of Rupar but I am confident that service on the route on which this company runs its buses will improve even more when it is nationalized. I therefore, request the Government to accelerate its speed in nationalizing the motor transport services though I know it is already keen to do it at its earliest. However, I hope that Government will take care not to turn out of employment efficient transport workers and add to the number of unemployed in the State.

Sir, it pains me to note that our Government has simply added insult to injury by sanctioning only a paltry sum of Rs. 50,000 for the amelioration of the lot of those people who sacrificed their all in the battle for freedom. If Government actually wants to help them, it should embark upon a definite and liberal policy for this purpose.

Now, Sir, since our country is free, we must build monuments to the memory of those patriots who died during their fight for freeing their motherland from the foreign bondage. Government has done well in making a provision in this Budget for the improvement of Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar, of which our hon. Speaker, Dr. Satyapal is the hero.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Friday,
20th June, 1952.*

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

FRIDAY, 20th JUNE, 1952.

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—
OFFICIAL REPORT.



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 20th June, 1952.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4,
at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satya Pal)
in the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : As the number of hon. Members who want to take part in the debate is very large, it is proposed to dispense with the question hour. (Voices : Yes) The question hour is dispensed with.

SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Minister for Development (Punjabi) : Sir, I beg to move :—

*That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned
till 2 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th June, 1952.*

Mr. Speaker, the reason for bringing this motion is that Id falls on the 24th June, 1952. Though the number of Muslims in this State and also in this House is very small, still it is our duty to show proper respect and regard for all religions. As the Legislative Assembly does not meet on Saturdays and Sundays, it has been proposed that there be no meeting on next Monday also, so that the hon. Members may have four off days. They will be able to go to their constituencies during these days and find out the difficulties of the people. On their return they will be able to place their demands before the House. They will be able to attend to other work also during these days and after that we will transact the Assembly business. It is for the convenience of the hon. Members that it has been proposed to hold the next meeting on the 25th June.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

*That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned
till 2 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th June, 1952.*

Sardar Gopal Singh : I support this motion on behalf of the opposition.

Sardar Wazir Singh: (Delhon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I do not oppose this motion, but there is one thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. On Thursday, the 19th June, when non-official business should have been transacted, official business was done on a motion moved by the Government. We did not oppose that motion in the hope that private Member's business would be transacted on the 26th June. I hope that the Government will allow non-official business to be transacted on that day.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:—

*That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till
2 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th June, 1952.*

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: As I have already submitted there will be no question hour today. May I know the time required by the hon. Ministers to reply to the debate? When that is known, I shall be able to regulate the time which is to be allowed to other hon. Members.

Minister for Development: The Ministers would require two hours for replying to the debate. We will take less time if possible but I think we shall need two hours.

Mr. Speaker: The Deputy Leader says that the Ministers would require two hours for replying to the debate. Other hon. Members have, therefore, two hours at their disposal. I shall request them to exercise control and restraint while speaking. First of all, I call upon Sardar Wazir Singh from the opposition to deliver his speech.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET

Sardar Wazir Singh: (Delhon) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, during the last elections, members of the Congress Party used to go to different towns and hold out various promises to the people. After the elections also the Deputy Leader of the Congress Assembly Party went to Ludhiana and told the people in the course of his speech at a public meeting that for the first time after Maharaja Ranjit Singh's reign, democratic rule had been established in the Punjab. He promised that the Government would take measures to improve the condition of the villagers, who constituted eighty-eight per cent of the population. The people felt very happy at those promises and thought that the foundation of a new Punjab had been

actually laid. But when I came to Simla and this Budget was presented to the House, I turned over its pages again and again to find out if there was any glimpse of the new Punjab in it. I thought that perhaps this Budget was prepared, when the Leader and the Deputy Leader were away at Hissar.

Through you, Sir, I want to make a few suggestions to the Government so that the foundation of a new Punjab may be truly laid and the people who had voted the Congress party to power might be benefited. From the economic point of view, this Budget cannot be called sound. Major amount of the revenues of a state should be spent on beneficial schemes. Contrary to that, we notice that a large sum of money will be spent on the services. I submit that lesser amount should have been provided on account of the salaries of Government Officials. The amount set aside for the benefit of rural people is very small. If we examine the revenue side of the Budget, we will find that eighty-five per cent of the money comes from villagers. Only fifteen per cent is paid by the urban people. Figures of expenditure reveal that eighty-five per cent of it is incurred for the benefit of urban people and only fifteen per cent is spent on the ruralites. I do not understand how such a Budget can be described as a poor man's Budget. It was natural for the opposition to criticise it but I found that during the last two days ninety per cent of the speeches delivered from Government Benches were also critical of it. Very few members have commended this Budget and that too very cautiously adding if's and but's. The Finance Minister has told us that the Government wants to augment its revenues from two new sources, firstly, by levying a tax on passengers and goods carried by motor vehicles and secondly by nationalization of road transport. I may inform the Government that nobody in this House is opposed to nationalization as such. But if the Government is really after augmenting its revenues, it would do well to nationalize big industries, factories, insurance companies and banks because in that case the persons to be adversely affected will be those whose business runs into crores and the possibility of increase in revenues greater. Seventy five per cent of the share holders of these transport companies are refugees who came from West Punjab after having lost their all and the Government had allotted them permits to enable them to earn a living. It is, therefore, highly improper to uproot them once again. Moreover, at the repeated representations of the Motor Transport Operators' Association, a resolution was passed by the pre-elections Punjab Legislative Assembly recommending the postponement of nationalization of road transport for

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

a period of three years and it was accepted by the then Government. Political ethics demands that the assurance given to and the gentleman's agreement made with the operators should be honoured by the present Government. If they will not consider the commitments of the previous Government binding on themselves, they should not forget that the future Governments will not honour their commitments either. A very important consideration that had weighed with the Government in giving this assurance to the operators was that it wanted them to purchase motor vehicles worth Rs. 10 lakhs which it had purchased in 1948 and had been lying idle since then. As directed by the Government, these vehicles were purchased by them at a cost equal to their original price plus garaging charges etc. that the Government had to incur on them since they were purchased. The Government while striking this deal did not even allow them the rebate which was given to it by the dealers. The operators had accepted the terms dictated by the Government on the assurance that there would be no more nationalization for at least three years.

The statement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech claiming success for road transport nationalization carried on as an experimental measure should be taken with a pinch of salt. Figures included in the Budget speak for themselves. Government had invested Rs. 39 lakhs in transport undertakings and purchased 180 buses. Income that has accrued to it is Rs. 6 lakhs while as the Leader of the Opposition has explained taxes such as road tax, sales tax, income tax, registration fee etc., from which the Government—operated services are exempt and which the private operators would have paid, had not the routes been taken over by the Government come to Rs. 7 lakhs. From this, it is clear that the Government has incurred a loss of one lakh of rupees. If the depreciation is taken into account, vehicles which were bought at a cost of Rs. 39 lakhs would not now fetch more than Rs. 20 lakhs. This means loss of another Rs. 19 lakhs.

Now let us examine the other aspect of this experiment. How far has it resulted in increased amenities for the public? While the private companies had constructed rest houses and waiting rooms for passengers, the Government has not made any such provision. Moreover, passengers were provided with comfortable seats in buses run by private companies while due to overloading in Government buses public have to put up with indescribable inconvenience.

If at all, Sir the intention of the Government is to augment its revenues it can have recourse to other methods involving little hardship for the poor refugees. Operators are prepared to pay more money into Government coffers than it can ever hope to get through nationalization of road transport.

Moreover, Sir, there is considerable scope for economy in the expenditure proposed in this Budget and much money can be saved without affecting in the least the efficiency of any department. No one can deny that our administration is top-heavy and needs the axe of economy to set it right. Yesterday, an hon. Member was saying that the previous Government had constituted a Resources and Retrenchment Committee whose recommendations were not implemented. We are given to understand that it had made some very useful suggestions. It is high time that these were implemented with a view to adding to the revenues of the State.

As for me, Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions which can help the Government to save money from certain heads of expenditure for allocating more funds to the beneficent departments for which the Government has not been able to provide enough money. Let the Government try to act upon my suggestions till the next session and continue them further only if they result in a substantial saving. In the United Punjab, there were 29 districts but the number of Ministers had never exceeded 5. Now we have as many as 8 Ministers and Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries have yet to be appointed while the income of this partitioned State is 32 per cent of its previous income and refugees whose tax-paying capacity is almost nil form a very large part of its population. In these circumstances, Sir, would it not be better to have a Ministry of 3 or at the most 5 for this State, particularly when there are so many Secretaries and Heads of Departments to assist the Ministers ?

In the United Punjab which comprised of 23 districts there were only two Financial Commissioners but now when there are thirteen districts the number of Financial Commissioners is three. Besides, there is the office of the Commissioner which I think does not serve any useful purpose. Uttar Pradesh and Bombay Governments have already abolished the posts of Commissioners. In fact, a Commissioner only acts as a liaison between the Government and the Deputy Commissioners and merely passes on the papers from one to the other. In case the posts of Commissioners are abolished, there can be a saving of Rs 2½ lakhs to the Government.

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

Then, take the case of the Civil Supplies Department. During this session, the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies had told us that our Government was sending wheat to Delhi as there was a surplus of foodgrains in our State. If this is so, there is hardly any need for the Food Department to continue. If this department is disbanded there can be a saving of Rs. 22 lakhs to the Government. When control has already been lifted from cloth and sugar and wheat is surplus in the State, then what useful purpose will it serve to carry on this department which is doing no good to the zamindars? When the burden of taxes is to a larger extent shared by the villagers than the urbanites I would suggest that the land revenue should also be realised on the basis of income tax. Petty zamindars should be exempted from the payment of land revenue and the big zamindars should be asked to pay land revenue on a progressive scale according to their annual income. I don't think there will be any loss to the Government if this system is adopted. The Government has taken a decision to establish Industrial Finance Corporation in the State. I would suggest that the Government should also set up an Agricultural Finance Corporation on the pattern of the Industrial Finance Corporation to afford credit facilities to the zamindars. I would ask the hon. Ministers that if they really pledge themselves to the service and betterment of the people then their actions will be applauded by the public but in case they fail to do so then they will meet the same fate as the previous ministry. I may inform the hon. Members occupying the Ministerial Benches that the brave Punjabis who had sometime back faced bullets are today in a miserable plight and are feeling disappointed and frustrated. I feel that if the Government continues to adopt an attitude of indifference towards them there will be a great agitation in the State and the Government will be compelled to move down from Simla in order to restore law and order in the State.

Shri Sri Chand : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I am sorry that I made a wrong statement yesterday when I said that a provision had been made in the Budget for the purchase of aeroplanes for the use of hon. Ministers. In fact this is not so and such a provision was made in the Budget for 1950-51.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : (Ballabgarh) (*Hindi*): Sir, I have not asked for time to speak since the beginning of this session and I hope that you will not kindly interrupt me till I have finished my speech today.

Mr. Speaker : I do not want to be dictated to.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : Sir, I am reminded of an Urdu couplet which says :—

अज्ञात नहीं किसी से और न पुरखारा का खयाल
सच कहता हूँ कि झूठ की आदत नहीं मुझे ।

ਅਜਾਣਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਿਸੀ ਸੇ ਔਰ ਨ ਪੁਰਖਾਰਾ ਕਾ ਖਿਆਲ ।
ਸੱਚ ਕਹਿਤਾ ਹੂੰ ਕਿ ਝੂਠ ਕੀ ਆਦਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੁਝੇ ।

A wise man has said "Don't be afraid of your enemies but be afraid of your friends who flatter you". I would, therefore, submit that now when the Congress Government is in power, we should not be afraid of giving expression to our real feelings, though it may at times be unpalatable to the Government, nor should we in any case flatter the Government. I have at this time before me three copies of the Budget which have 1622 pages in all. This Budget has been printed in small type. If it had been bound up in a book form its pages would have been 4,000 and if it had been printed in bold type its pages would have naturally exceeded 10,000. To go through this Budget is indeed a stupendous task and I wonder if the hon. Finance Minister had Alladins Lamp with him that he was able to study the Budget thoroughly within two months. I would, therefore, suggest that the Budget should be such that it can be easily understood by the hon. Members. But on the contrary we find that this Budget is a very complicated one and cannot be studied within two days. I really congratulate my hon. Friend Sardar Wazir Singh who claims to have gone through this Budget three or four times within these two days. I remember that in olden days when an old woman used to give her blessings to any one she used to say, "May you be the keeper of accounts running into lakhs of rupees !" Similarly our hon. Minister for Finance has prepared a Budget of crores of rupees but has no money with him.

I would now like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the issue of the official newspaper entitled 'Hind Smachar' of the 17th instant ...

Mr. Speaker : You cannot refer to it. Neither is it an official organ nor can you refer to it on the floor of this House.

[Shri Kidar Nath Sehgal]

Now, Sir, I have before me voluminous books. I feel that the matter contained in one Memorandum of the Budget, which covers 250 pages could easily be compressed into a few pages. After perusing this Memorandum, on page 15 one comes across a colossal amount to the tune of Rs. 58,02,00,000/-, which shows that the State of Punjab is under a heavy debt. It goes without saying that ours is a small State comprising 12 districts. I wonder where this huge amount, running into crores of rupees could have been spent. If there had been any sign of this expenditure having been incurred for the benefit of the people, there would have been prosperity all round. I would, however, request our new Ministry to pay special attention to this matter and adopt measures to lighten the burden of this debt. If it fails to do so, I am afraid, our State would go bankrupt.

Now

ਕਲੇਜਾ ਥਾਮ ਲੋ ਅਬ ਦਿਲ ਜਲੇ ਫਰਿਆਦ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ।

ਕਲੇਜਾ ਥਾਮ ਲੋ ਅਬ ਦਿਲ ਜਲੇ ਫਰਿਆਦ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ।

If you turn to page 26 of the Budget, you will find that the total receipts from the Land Revenue for the year 1952-53 amount to Rs. 1,94,97,000/- and the expenditure provided under this head appears on page 73. It amounts only to Rs. 9,74,200/- and, that too has been spent on the establishment responsible for recovering land revenue. In other words, no substantial return has been made to the Zamindars who shall have contributed a huge sum in the form of Land Revenue. Now what is the condition of the tillers of soil who pay so much Land Revenue? The Ministers must be in the know of it as they often tour the rural areas. They are aware that the poor peasants are not even properly clad. This is so because they have not enough money to purchase clothes etc. or other necessities of life. It behoves the Government to do something tangible to ameliorate the condition of our peasantry which contributes a lot to the State Exchequer.

In the recent elections, luckily I got a ticket for the Ballabgarh Constituency. This is one of the Tehsils of the Gurgaon District. This ilaqa can be safely called "Kala Pani" or penal settlement. I call it so because not a single pucca or kacha road exists in this ilaqa for purposes of transport. Not only this. Not even a well is to be found from where

one could quench one's thirst in this *Ilaga*. Sir, if you happen to visit that *Ilaga* during summer, you will simply be besmeared with dust. In the rainy season you are apt to fall in some water pool as there are no roads there. It, therefore, pains me to find that although the rural people pay so much money in the shape of land revenue, yet no efforts are made by the Government to provide them with amenities of life or roads in their *Ilagas* to facilitate transport. I may make it clear that whatever opinion I express, should in no case be construed as an unfriendly criticism about the working of the new Ministry. It is common knowledge that the uplift of the rural people is one of the foremost duties of a Government. The old Ministry failed to pay any attention to this problem of vital importance and I do not want that the present Ministry should also repeat the same mistake. Happily, this Cabinet contains two or three Ministers, who are tried workers of the Congress. I would like to impress upon them that it is their bounden duty to see that the public money is properly utilised and every section of the people gets its due share of benefits. I sometimes feel that when in the Punjab of 12 districts the state of affairs is rotten, what will be happening in Uttar Pradesh, which consists of 52 districts. However, that is not my concern. Let me confine myself to the conditions obtaining in the Punjab. It is such a small State that if one hon. Minister cares to sit in his car, he can tour half of the State at a stretch. But this is not possible for want of good roads in our State. Once I happened to visit Naraingarh. When I, along with other passengers, got down from the bus we were all covered with dust to such an extent that we appeared as if we had been sugar coated ! This was all due to the want of pucca roads.

Then, Faridabad is a new township. It is said that it is under the Central Government, but it is situated in the Punjab. Its population is about 40,000 while 5000 persons out of them are still unemployed. Neither have these people been granted loans nor have they been allotted land. Two men have already committed suicide on account of unemployment and many a man is prepared to end his life for want of any means of livelihood. It may also be stated that respectable families who have come from Peshawar and settled there, are earning their living by selling leaves of *Chhichhras* in Delhi. I think it is the bounden duty of the Punjab Government also to provide some kind of employment to these distressed people so that they can make their both ends meet. Since they are residents of this State, they are within their rights to demand help from this Government. But it is a pity that these voluminous tomes contain no provisions for their betterment. If I have to carry them to my place, I will need Rs. 2/- for cooling. (*Laughter*).

[Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal]

Now, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers, particularly the Minister for Local-Government to the deterioration of efficiency in the Government offices. You will remember, Sir, that it is about 4½ years since when the work of our new Capital, namely, Chandigarh was started and it is equally the same number of years since when the Bhakra Nangal Projects were taken in hand. The people have been asking me as to when the completion of Chandigarh would be brought about. In this connection my hon. Friend Captain Sahib was also holding out hopes every year that the next Assembly Session would be held at Chandigarh. Since I had never been to this place, I could not give my opinion about it to the public. But when Pandit Nehru paid a visit to Chandigarh, I also went there. Pandit Nehru was shown very beautiful maps and a French Engineer explained them to him in a fine way. But what have I seen there? Despite the fact that crores of rupees have been spent, yet not a single road has been completed, which can give us some satisfaction or hold out any hope of the early completion of the Capital. I would, therefore, request the Government to see, that those who are entrusted with the construction of the Capital, perform their duties with zeal and efficiency and are able to build it as early as possible and in such a way that it should favourably compare with Lahore.

Then I come to the Bhakra and Nangal Projects. I have been to that place twice or thrice. Enough work has been done. But, considering the period of 4 years and the colossal amount of 32 crores of rupees which has been spent there, the progress of the work completed so far is not satisfactory. I feel that in view of the fact that people are dying of starvation and a considerable difficulty is being experienced in regard to the supply of water by them, the execution of the Projects should have been expedited. But the state of affairs there is not happy, because I understand that the officers in charge of Bhakra and Nangal Projects are in the grip of partisan spirit. They feel jealous of each other and thus their efficiency in accomplishing these projects is being impaired. If cordial relations had subsisted among them, perhaps, the completion of this work would have been in sight. I was told there that the officers had misappropriated lakhs of rupees. I advised the people to lodge a complaint with the Government. But they said that nobody listened to them and their repeated requests had in the past proved to be a cry in the wilderness. They further remarked that the Ministers cared more to have their name-stones installed there than to listen

to the complaints of the people. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to constitute a committee, which should go thoroughly into this matter and bring the culprits to book, without caring for the fact that such an action on its part would bring bad name and discredit to the officers. While going through this Budget today, I was surprised to note at its page 3, that a sum of Rs. 2,73,64,800/- had been allotted for Police and Rs. 1,59,14,720/- for General Administration and I think that this will be a matter of surprise for you too. Had the Government been successful in maintaining law and order in the State, it would not have mattered much even if double the total of these amounts had been reserved for this purpose. The number of thefts and murders used to be much less during the British regime in this country than it is today. It pains me to tell you, Sir, that only the other day an innocent person had been murdered during the day time on a main road in Simla, which is the seat of the Government and where the hon. Ministers, the Inspector General of Police and other big officers reside. Similarly some days back a murder was committed on the Ridge, a central place in Simla. Sir, this is the state of affairs in Simla. Government should at least keep this place free from these horrible happenings. As a matter of fact it should be possible for an individual to move about at this place without any fear, even when holding currency notes in his hands ! For doing so, I would request the Government to recruit persons of ability and integrity in the Police. They should not be recruited simply on the ground that they are the sons of Superintendents of Police or some other officers of that department. To recruit only the fit persons should be the aim of the Government.

Now, Sir, I would discuss here the state of affairs in the judiciary in the State. This condition is even worse. Three years back, a case of embezzlement was reported to the police for making enquiries. The police has so far failed to complete its enquiries and put up the challan. Perhaps, it feared interference from the Ministry. I personally approached the Inspector incharge with the request that he should complete the enquiry and not sleep over it. If after the completion of his enquiry, he was of the opinion that a false report had been made he should take necessary action against the person concerned and in case the report was correct he should proceed with the case against the offender. Sir, this was a case of embezzlement of Rs. 13 thousand from the funds of a school. The case has not so far even been registered, in spite of the matter having been brought to the notice of an hon. Minister ! Enquiries into this case had also been made by Seth Sant Ram. Such is the state of affairs !

[Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal]

It has been often seen that a number of files are removed from the offices and are destroyed. Sir, even if you happen to send an application to an office for some urgent work, you will find that no action is taken on it, till a large number of applications of similar type are collected and many files are started on the subject. The result is that the original application is torn or lost and your work is left undone. Sir, I request the Government to remove these defects and deal with persons responsible for such doings with the same sense of duty as Lord Krishna had displayed in dealing with Kansa and Shishupala and Farooq-i-Azam with his son.

Further, Sir, the problem of rehabilitation of refugees has not yet been completely solved. It was the duty of the Government to see that at least the difficulties of those refugees who had settled at Simla, the seat of the Punjab Government, were removed. Simla is a place where quite a number of people are rich, handsome and delicate, on the other hand the poor who have a lot of miseries to face are also living here in thousands. Near the bungalow, where a Minister is living, you will find a humble dwelling occupied by a poor family. The condition of refugees who are in service is of course better than that of others. Their difficulties have somewhat been solved and they are being paid well.

Through you, Sir, I want to enquire from the hon. Ministers, as to why unemployment is on the increase in the State. The willing and able-bodied persons should not have remained unemployed, had the Government taken some solid steps in this direction. The result is that the beggars are on the increase in the State. In the Punjab, the Government has failed to solve this problem of beggars, which is becoming more acute day by day. The Government should have provided work to those beggars to enable them to earn their livelihood. It should have shot dead those whom it considered totally unfit for work and a dead weight on the society.

It is a pity, Sir, that the Punjab Government has not allowed vegetable ghee to be coloured in the State. Pure milk and pure ghee are not now available in this State, which used to be famous for abundance of these two commodities. No steps have been taken by the hon. Ministers to improve the supply of these things.

I am sorry to say that the hon. Chief Minister is not present in the House. Had he been here, I would have asked him, why he has been telling

the public at different places in the State, which he has recently toured, that they should not depend upon what the hon. Members of this House might say. Sir, if permitted by you, I can quote his speeches as published recently in press in the State.

Mr. Speaker : No ; please proceed with your speech.

Minister for Local Government : On a point of order, Sir, it is not against parliamentary practice for an hon. Member to quote something from a written document while speaking.

Mr. Speaker : I agree. But now I would like that the hon. Member should finish his speech early and should not take much time of the House since the time at our disposal is already too short.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : Our Chief Minister has appreciated the work done by a P. C. S. officer named Shri Lakshmi Chander Vasisht. Sir, he is the same Lakshmi Chander, who did his best to crush the national movement for freedom, particularly at the time when Shri Subhash Chander Bose and Shri Sarat Chander Bose visited our State.

Minister for Development : The hon. Member can criticise any officer of the Government but cannot name him.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : I do not wish at all to mention the name of such an officer.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (Hindi) : Sir, it is rather difficult for a new member to comment on such a big Budget as this. But still I wish to say one or two things with regard to it.

The hon. Members have looked at this Budget from different angles. Some of them have termed it as a drain inspector's report. Of course, there are some shortcomings in this Budget but that does not warrant them to say that it is like a drain inspector's report. Another set of Members have looked at the Budget from the point of view of a rich person. Such Members have used words of praise for this Budget. Another point of view is that of the poor people. This point of view has been presented by most of the hon. Members. Yet another angle from which some of the hon. Members look at this Budget is whether it has been prepared keeping in mind the directive principles of State Policy mentioned in the Constitution.

[Shri Mool Chand Jain]

Some other hon. Members have tried to find out whether the promises held out in the Governor's Address have been fulfilled in this Budget or not. These are the various angles from which the hon. Members try to see the provisions contained in this Budget. Some of these angles coincide ; for instance, the point of view of the poor people coincides with the directive principles of the Constitution. It has to be admitted that there are certain items in the Budget which are an improvement on the past. For instance, increase in the dearness allowance of the low-paid employees, provision of eight lakhs for Panchayats and five and a half lakhs for backward classes are the good points of the Budget. But still much remains to be done in implementing the directive principles and doing something solid for raising the standard of living of the poor people. As a matter of fact no relief has been provided to the poor man and no attention has been paid towards the social and economic uplift of the down-trodden people in the State of Punjab.

If we look at the conditions prevailing around us we would find that there are two categories of people. Firstly, there are the capitalists and big zamindars. Secondly, there are those who do not possess any capital or lands and who when they sleep at night are not sure whether their children will get any morsel of bread the next day. It is the duty of our Government to work for the uplift of the latter category of people, who constitute an overwhelming majority of the population. I regret to find that this Budget provides no relief to such persons. Although we have won Independence, yet it is only the political phase of our struggle that has come to an end. We have given the right of vote to all the adults of our country. But now the struggle against economic ills has begun. It is regrettable that the hon. Finance Minister has made no proposals for benefitting the have-nots. The excuse that in a short period of two months they could not do anything substantial for the poor does not hold water because if in this period something could be done for the rich then why not for the poor ? In fact, by effecting savings from various items of expenditure, which are on the face of them quite unnecessary, the Government could do something for the man in the street. The posts of Commissioners could be abolished and the number of Financial Commissioners reduced without any loss in the efficiency of the services. Some departments could easily be amalgamated. Shri Dev Raj Sethi has stated that ten lakhs of rupees are to be spent on the headquarters. This expenditure is quite unnecessary and can be easily dispensed with.

Sir, my submission is that this Budget is a *status quo* Budget. It cannot satisfy the needs of the masses. Under abnormal conditions, abnormal remedies should be adopted. The disease is so deep rooted that only a major operation can remove it. The hon. Ministers are afraid of resorting to radical methods in this matter. But it should be understood, that where the interests of the rich and of the poor clash, the interest of the former should give way. But I am constrained to remark that this Budget does not strike at the rich persons in any way. I would like to suggest that sufficient loans should be given to the Harijan and other backward classes in the State so that they may be able to stand on their feet.

Captain Ranjit Singh (Hissar Sadar) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, the general discussion on the Budget has been going on for the last two days and every hon. Member has, according to his own light, endeavoured to put forward suggestions for the improvement of the Budget. I think that if we have to make suggestions with regard to every department, then even three days are not sufficient for the purpose. But we have to put up with the paucity of time; and for that reason I would like to make a few observations for the consideration of the Government.

Well, Sir, there are four or five items in the Budget, for which this Government really deserves our heartiest thanks. The first thing is the provision of Rs. 25,000/- for the purchase of some houses surrounding Jallianwala Bagh, which bear the bullet marks of the shooting in that incident. Since Jallianwala Bagh is a standing monument and the very emblem of sacrifices made by the Punjabis in the cause of freedom, I feel that the provision of this amount is a step in the right direction. Such a monument must be preserved to commemorate the memory of our patriots and also for drawing inspiration by our countrymen.

The second commendable thing is the provision of Rs. 50,000/- made in the Budget by way of Government's contribution to the National Workers Relief Fund. Although the amounts earmarked for these two purposes are not very large, yet they are an expression of the warm feelings of the Government for our patriots. (*Hear, hear*). Then it is really a laudable act on the part of the Government to enhance the dearness allowance of the low-paid Government servants by rupees five per mensem. It deserves our grateful thanks for having done this.

[Captain Ranjit Singh]

Now, Sir, Government has been twitted by the hon. Members opposite with having presented a deficit Budget and that too when it is already burdened with an enormous public debt. May I ask them what they have done for the last 20 years? They have been only holding out empty promises for the construction of Bhakra Dam or doing certain things for the benefit of the poor masses. All their promises have proved a waste of breath. But on the other hand if they just look at the short record of the Congress Government, they will find that it has not indulged in empty boasts but has endeavoured to do the greatest good of the greatest number. I may also tell them that the item of 22½ crores of rupees objected to by them, will be spent on the completion of the Bhakra Nangal Projects. (Cheers). Besides, may I ask my hon. Friends over there as to what amount did we get from the Unionist Government after the partition? Was there anything in the coffers of the Unionist Government the share of which it could pass on to us?

Shri Sri Chand: The Government played the truant and so it got nothing.

Captain Ranjit Singh: The credit still goes to our Government that despite the fact that it had to start from a scratch, it undertook the construction of Bhakra and Nangal Projects. Then my hon. Friends are making a capital out of the public debt. They should remember that the amount of 33 crores of rupees, which is included in this debt, is to be spent on the Bhakra Nangal Projects. (Cheers). In view of this, if the present Budget is not to be considered to be a poor man's budget, then I fail to understand what else can be called a poor man's budget. It is my firm belief that when the Bhakra Nangal Projects are brought to a successful completion, there will be plenty and prosperity in this State. (Cheers).

Now where I have offered my felicitations to the Government and the Finance Minister, I cannot help offering the same to the Finance Secretary, for preparing a very lucid, succinct and easily understandable Memorandum to the Budget. He knew that the Members returned to the Assembly after the first general elections held under the system of adult franchise, may not be having parliamentary experience. To avoid their difficulty in understanding complicated budgetary figures, he has taken pains to prepare a clear and comprehensible Memorandum to the Budget.

After this I want to make a few suggestions to the Government. The amount of Rs. 22 crores which has been set aside this year for the construction of the Bhakra Nangal Projects, must be spent on this item with great care and not a single pie should be allowed to go waste. Any improper use of this money will simply exasperate the people of these ilaqa who are anxiously waiting for the completion of the Bhakra Scheme, for the time when their parched lands would receive water and yield bumper crops and thus remove scarcity conditions and bring prosperity to them. Besides, it is natural that those people who are expected to pay betterment fees on their lands for receiving irrigation facilities from Bhakra Project, will not tolerate any mis-spending of the amount specifically earmarked for the construction of Bhakra Project. As a matter of fact, when every zamindar, whether he owns five acres or 100 acres of land is liable to be subjected to a betterment fee, he is within his rights to demand an explanation of any mis-spending of this amount by the Government. I would, therefore, request the Government to be careful in this matter and see that every pie of the amount is expended for the purpose for which it has been provided.

Then, Sir, there is an item of Rs. 95,000/- which can be easily saved. In this connection I may point out that my hon. Friends opposite were pleased to remark that as a result of friction, partisan spirit and discord among the officers working on Bhakra the Central Government even refused to advance loans for the construction of the Bhakra Project. Perhaps this alleged discord was the cause which led the Central Government to form a Control Board of three States and place it under the Chairmanship of Shri Chandu Lal Trivedi in his personal capacity. I do not know how far the allegation of my hon. Friends is correct, but we thought that Shri Chandu Lal was appointed Chairman on account of his being a man of long and ripe experience in administrative matters and his being a civil servant of long standing. We expected that he would get the Bhakra Project expedited and bring about its completion much earlier than the stipulated period. But since his appointment as Chairman of the Control Board, Bhakra Project, much water has flowed under the Sutlej Bridge and the scheme instead of having made rapid strides towards completion, has made a retrogression. At first 1956 was announced by the Government as the dead line when this scheme was to be completed, but now it has been stated that its completion will not be achieved before 1959.

Shri Sri Chand : Who knows, its completion may be delayed still further.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Yes, if the work is carried on at the present rate, possibly it may be delayed for some time as stated by my hon. Friend. But what I wanted to drive at is this. Now the Irrigation Department is not burdened with much work. Why should this department be not entrusted with this job, particularly when my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sahib, who holds this portfolio, is a gentleman of great experience. Perhaps this is the fourth time that he has become a Minister of the Government. I feel that the Control Board should be abolished and he should be made responsible for the construction and completion of the scheme.

Now let me state the details of the item of Rs. 95,000/-. Well, Sir, if you just turn to page 501 of the Budget, you will find an amount of Rs. 49,700/- provided as pay of officers, Rs. 11,800/- as other allowance and honoraria and 16,600 as establishment charges, Rs. 9,000/- as travelling allowance and Rs. 8,000/- as contingencies. I am of the opinion that this amount should be saved and the construction work of Bhakra Project be entrusted to the Irrigation Department.

Then, Sir, a sum of Rs. 80,000/- is being spent on the border police. The hon. Minister stated that the Government requested the Central Government to meet this expenditure out of their revenues, but they did not agree to it. I shall ask the hon. Minister for Finance to try to get this amount from the Government of India and I am sure that the whole House will support him in that demand. Why should the Punjab alone bear the entire expenditure of protecting the border of India? We are already under debt which runs into crores of rupees. I wish to point out that the Budget cannot be improved by cutting expenditure of Rs. 10,000/- under one head and about the same amount under another head. There is only one way of improving it. After the partition, the Government had to face a number of problems. Lakhs of refugees had to be rehabilitated and a number of Government departments had to be re-organised for carrying on different kinds of work. These departments went on multiplying rapidly. On the basis of my experience I can say that it is easy to create new departments, but once they are established, it is very difficult to abolish them. A person who is appointed an officer in a department tries to expand it by appointing as many persons as possible. In the same manner, our Chief Minister is increasing the number of Ministers in his cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (Hindi): Sir, I wish to make a few observations about the budget which the hon. Minister for Finance has placed before the House. He tried to prepare a very sound budget, but there are one or two matters towards which I want to draw the attention of the Government.

First of all I wish to submit that we are disgusted with the treatment which is meted out to the villagers by the police. Innocent persons are challaned under Sections 107, 109 and 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The police is terrorising the villagers and has made their lives very difficult. There have been cases of shooting by the police in my district. There was no occasion for the shootings and as a result of magisterial enquiry instituted into those incidents it is said that the police was held to blame but no action was taken against the persons concerned. When the villagers go to police stations to lodge complaints, nobody cares to record them and they are insulted and asked to go back. Poor people receive no hearing in any quarter. The Government should pay immediate attention to this difficulty of the villagers.

Now, I wish to say a few words about educational facilities. There is already a large number of schools in the cities and towns. If the District Boards open schools in villages and not in towns, these will be of great help to the villagers. As there are other schools also in the towns, the District Board schools serve no useful purpose at those places and should be shifted to villages. The villages need such schools badly. I hope that the Government will look to this need of the rural people.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (Punjabi): Sir, many speeches have been delivered on this budget and I also wish to express my views about it. Some hon. Members think that we, who are sitting on the Opposition Benches, offer criticism for the sake of criticism and that no importance need be attached to our views, but I shall try to show that this budget reveals clear attempt at loot on the part of imperialists, capitalists and Jagirdars. If the schemes referred to in the budget are carefully examined, the hand of imperialism would be clearly noticed in them. Take, for instance, the schemes for industrial development. For this purpose, the Government has provided a sum of Rs. 31,50,000/- two-thirds of which will be spent in the form of salaries of the establishment. A considerable amount has been

[Sbri Wadhawa Ram]

set apart for the purchase of land for industrial colonies, so that the industrialists may purchase plots in those colonies and exploit the masses. No attempt has been made to remove industrial unemployment from the State. Its main cause is the absence of Government-owned industries. The policy of our State will help the capitalists without removing unemployment. As the hon. Members are aware, out of 40,000/- labourers who were engaged in industry at Ludhiana, 38000 are at present jobless. The scheme of selling industrial plots will help only Tatas and Birlas in carrying on exploitation of the poor masses.

At first sight, Bhakra and Nangal Projects appear to be very attractive and every Minister refers to the advantages which will accrue to the people on their completion, but if we examine the details of these projects we will find that these are meant for the benefit of fat-salaried engineers and foreign experts. Petty land-owners have been dispossessed of their lands in the name of carrying on these projects. The Government has acquired their lands in order that big zamindars may reap the fruit of these projects. All this is being done to perpetuate Jagirdari and to please imperialist countries.

We have recently been hearing about community projects. Ford Foundation has come forward to help the execution of this scheme so that they may find means of selling steel manufactured by Ford's factories in America. The entire system is based on methods which will help Jagirdars, capitalists and foreign imperialist powers. In this budget the exploiters and the big officers who have been leading luxurious and comfortable lives since the days of British rule have been left untouched. When the Congress Party took the reins of the office, these officers were apprehensive but now they say that they are happier than before.

Sir, you will not give me time enough to refer to each department of the Government. So I will confine my remarks to a few departments only. I have to point it out with regret, Sir, that if the present policy of the Government continues the few industries that are flourishing in this State will be wiped out. Thanks to the bungling policy followed by this Government 250 foundries have been closed down in Batala and the looms and hosiery factories in Amritsar and Ludhiana are at a stand-still. Many friends have referred to the atrocities being committed on the tenants in

rural areas. This clearly shows that the policies followed by this Government are everywhere resulting in suppression and oppression of the labouring classes in villages as well as towns. Petty traders and shopkeepers who have no connection of any kind with the British firms are also in a tight corner. The interests of the small artisan are also in jeopardy. Unemployment is on the increase in villages. Tenants are being shot down by the landlords or pilloried at will. We have received many telegrams to this effect. They are being ejected even from the land which they have already sown. Despite the fact that the yield from the crops has been good and there is no dearth of any kind in the villages, poor people are being forced on pain of death to migrate to towns. The repressive machinery of the Government cannot save them from the oppression of the landlords.

In the services discrimination of all sorts is still continuing. For the same work, an Englishman posted at Phillaur is paid Rs. 18,700 per annum and the Indian Officer Rs. 6,000. Then, there is an undue disparity in the scales of pay of Indian Officers themselves. Officers who were very loyal to the British are being paid fat salaries while the meagre salaries fixed for patwaris, constables and teachers have fallen into arrears.

Shri Teg Ram (Kauian Sarwar) (Hindi): Sir, quite a number of hon. Members have participated in the general discussion of the Budget which has been going on for the last two days. I am face to face with a rather difficult problem. The time at my disposal is so short that however much I may desire I cannot do justice to both the subjects that are exercising my mind at the moment. If I try to place before the House my views about the Budget, I shall be left with no time to voice the difficulties and grievances of the people residing in my constituency and *vice versa*. These people are convinced that under the regime of this Government neither their life, nor property nor the honour of their women-folk can be safe. Quite recently, one after another, so many atrocities have been perpetrated on the rural people living in the jurisdiction of Khuian Sarwar Police Station that it is not possible for me even to refer to them in this short time at my disposal.

Sir, the portrait of a great man is hanging in this Chamber in front of us. It has been given the highest place—higher than even the hon. Speaker's Chair. Who is not familiar with the name of Gahdhiji? Who can deny that our country became free from centuries-old bondage?—thanks to the spirit of service and sacrifice inculcated by him in our people and the

[Shri Teg Ram]

invaluable weapon of 'Truth and Ahimsa' that he taught us to adopt. We are all immeasurably grateful to him for the help he gave us to achieve our freedom. Sir, my conscience tells me that we have not so far been able to establish the regime of his dreams nor have we been able to realise the ideal form of administration that he had visualized. In Gandhiji's vision of free India, there was no place for such evils as drinking, untouchability etc. Prosperity of the teeming millions living in villages was the thing that he desired most. It is a matter for profound regret that this Budget contains no provision calculated to fulfil Gandhiji's wishes. It appears, our Government is not prepared to take any steps to eradicate the evil habit of drinking. True, ours is a deficit Budget but I would not hesitate to say that to run the administration with money earned from sale of liquor is just like meeting one's household expenses from the income derived from the prostitution of one's own wife. The Government should embark upon prohibition irrespective of its effects on the Budget for this policy will result in raising the moral tone of our society.

Gandhiji was also of the view that in the governance of free India people in general should have the maximum voice. Various forms of Government exist in the world but that which Gandhiji visualized for free India was the one which would leave no place for exploitation but on the other hand give every citizen a share in its affairs and again which would be run with the minimum personnel, ultimately leaving every thing in the hands of the people themselves.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (Hindi): Sir, for the last two days I have been listening with rapt attention to the speeches of the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate on the Budget for 1952-53. It is a matter for great regret that the impression that I have formed is that the hon. Members belonging to the opposition among whom there are some leading lawyers also have not taken any pains to go through the Budget carefully and have, therefore, betrayed a complete lack of understanding of it. The task to which I am now going to address myself is the removal of some of their misunderstandings and misconceptions about this Budget. Their criticism has followed the same pattern. They have complained that these big, bulky volumes on Budget contain no proposal calculated to benefit the common man. I am really amazed to hear such remarks from them.

Our friends opposite have spoken as if by budgeting deficit finance and by taking huge loans for the construction of Bhakra and Nangal Projects we are ruining the State and dragging it towards the abyss of bankruptcy. They appear to think that we are out to multiply the debts of this financially poor State and that we are concealing the 'real' deficit in our Budget by excluding the expenditure on Bhakra-Nangal Projects from the Revenue Account and showing it under Capital Expenditure. These are, Sir, some of the misconceptions which are exercising the minds of my friends sitting opposite. I want them first to remember that the whole modern financial system is based on the principle of 'money borrowed and money lent'. Can my friends cite the case of one single successful bank or firm or for that matter Government of a country which does not depend upon loans and owes its strength and soundness to this kind of money? If we have decided to finance a productive scheme such as Bhakra-Nangal Project from loans from the Central Government, how have we in any way infringed the universally-accepted canons and principles of public finance? Will my hon. Friends enlighten me on this issue?

True, we have provided a sum of Rs. 33.88 crores for this project in the Budget for the current year and this money we propose to get in the form of a loan from the Central Government. This is not all that we have to spend on this project. Every year, crores of rupees will be provided for this purpose until the project is complete. But my friends should think of the immense gain that the people of this State will get and the additional revenues that will flow into the coffers of the State after its completion.

If this amount were not provided, it would not be possible to irrigate arid lands in Jullundur, Hissar and Ferozepore Districts. Although this State has a deficit Budget but Government has not been stingy in the allocation of funds. Out of the Budget of 17 crores of rupees, ample funds have been spared to ameliorate the lot of the common man. If we look towards the Beneficent Departments such as Education, Veterinary, Co-operative, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries, we will find that the sum of Rs. 4,35,45,000 has been provided in the Budget which in other words forms 25 per cent of the total expenditure. It is a matter of deep disappointment and regret to find that the scheme of Community Projects has provoked criticism from certain quarters. My hon. Friends sitting on the Opposition Benches perhaps fail to realise that with this American aid

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we will be able to make an all-round development in the sphere of education, agriculture and health. I fail to understand why this beneficial scheme does not commend itself to some of our critics who make such allegations against the Government as have not an iota of truth in them. The total expenditure provided in the Budget for this scheme is Rs. 1,30.26 lakhs. Of this, rupees eighty five lakhs will be the responsibility of the State though Rs. 70 lakhs out of it will be financed from loans from the Centre. The balance of Rs. 15 lakhs will represent outright expenditure from the revenue account of the State. The country dwellers will appreciate the effects of this scheme in the years to come when they would feel that prosperity and plenty are their monopoly.

Besides this, I may say that the Public Works Department is doing very useful work though some of my hon. Friends have made criticism against the officers of this Department. The total expenditure provided in the Budget for irrigation and electricity is Rs. 2,79.55 and Rs. 1.35 lakhs respectively. It will, therefore, appear that out of the Budget of 17 crores of rupees, we have made liberal allocation for the Beneficent Departments. So far as the Electricity Department is concerned, it will supply electricity to the rural areas for the development of agriculture which will in a large measure increase the production of land. I may tell my hon. Friends that it serves no useful purpose by making unnecessary criticism against the Government because the result of the last general elections has made it clear beyond doubt that the Congress did not suffer in reputation and prestige even though the opposite parties were engaged in making propaganda against it. Then Sir, it has been said that the late Sir Chhotu Ram did his utmost for the uplift of the rural classes of people. But I think that it ill-behoves the hon. Member to say that the Congress Government has not done anything for the people living in the rural areas. I may tell for the information of the hon. Members that out of the loan of 33.38 crores this year, the capital expenditure for Bhakra and Nangal Projects included in the Budget amounts to about Rs. 22 crores as against Rs. 20.56 lakhs for the year 1951-52 and Rs. 10.02 lakhs for 1950-51 (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the hon. Members not to make any interruptions.

Shri Sri Chand: Sir, the hon. Minister should be asked not to cast any aspersion on any hon. Member.

Minister for Irrigation: Sir, the hon. Member has not even cared to go through the Budget and is creating a wrong impression about the Government among the people outside by making false allegations against it. I would ask him to study the Budget thoroughly before criticising the Government. He should clearly understand that the Budget provision made for the Bhakra Nangal Projects for 1952-53 amounts to Rs 22.53 lakhs and this development scheme has been financed entirely from loans from the Central Government. The hon. Member seems to be forgetful perhaps of the immense benefits which will accrue to the people when this Project is completed. The canal water from Bhakra Dam and cheap electricity from Nangal Project will change the face of the Punjab and put the State at the top in agriculture and industrial development. This project will irrigate about 66 lakh acres of land. With all this, I would say that it does not lie in the mouth of the hon. Member to say that the Congress Government has done nothing for the development of the State. Then besides this, the Government has undertaken the largest rural development scheme of Community Projects which will provide extensive irrigation facilities in the rural areas. Now I think it will be clear to the hon. Members that the Government even at the risk of taking loans from the Central Government has strained its every nerve for the betterment of the State. Well, Sir, I have placed before you the detailed account of the expenditure of Rs. 17 crores as to how and what percentage is received by the labourers and peasants. Not only this. I have also stated fully how the sum of Rs. 33 crores is proposed to be expended. It is clear from the Budget that taccavi loans are advanced to all the peasants of the State. It was not proper on my part to have given these details; it was rather the duty of the Minister for Finance to do so.

Now I would like to make a few observations regarding expenditure on irrigation. I may make it clear to my Friends beyond any shadow of doubt that it is the Congress Government which will make water available to the arid areas of Rohtak and Hissar Districts by 1953. They should bear this fact in mind that this water will be supplied for irrigation purposes through canals by the efforts of this Government and not that it will come through rains. It will come through proper channels (*Laughter*). So my hon. Friends over there are at liberty to tell the people about it.

Then it may be stated that a sum of Rs. one crore thirty three lakhs has been earmarked for sinking 256 tubewells in the Jagadhri Tehsil. So it will be crystal clear why that capital debt was incurred. We got into

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this debt with a view to spending the money on these beneficent schemes. What will be the result of all these efforts and heavy spending? The lands will be irrigated yielding bumper crops and making the zamindars and labourers prosperous and able to lead a comfortable life. I may tell the House, that where irrigation facilities through canals do not exist, the Government has undertaken the responsibility of supplying water by means of tubewells. I will not be guilty of any exaggeration if I say that my hon. Friends cannot even imagine the magnitude of work that this Government is doing in the matter of providing irrigation facilities to the people. Then we have set apart a sum of Rs. 13,84,000 for irrigating 14,000 acres of land in Karnal and Ambala districts by sinking tubewells there. The matter does not stop here. In Panipat 19000 acres of land will receive water through tubewells. The day is not far off when parched lands in the Haryana and other districts will receive ample supplies of water. In view of this I fail to understand the mentality of my hon. Friends opposite who still raise unnecessary hue and cry that Government has not been able to do anything substantial for the people in this matter. The responsibilities of the Irrigation Department do not end here. There are several tubewell schemes which are to be executed shortly. The most important and worth-mentioning amongst them are the Dera Baba Nanak Tube Well Scheme, Aliwal Tube Well Scheme, Samrala Tube Well Scheme, etc. Besides, it will be seen that the formulation of the Tube Well Schemes or Bhakra Nangal Schemes and their execution is not a child's play. This work requires a very careful and undivided attention of the Irrigation Department which my hon. Friends had the temerity to call as a white elephant. My hon. Friends by dubbing the personnel of the Irrigation Department as inefficient and shirkers, simply injure their feelings. I may tell them that those engineers who stood first in the Roorkee College of Engineering examination are piloting the execution of these projects and are working hard day and night to provide irrigation facilities to the Zamindars. If my hon. Friends see any delinquency on their part in the discharge of their duties, they should make specific complaints against them and I assure them that any person found guilty will be severely dealt with. So I am of the opinion that by decrying the engineers unnecessarily, my friends not only defame our engineers but also the State.

Apart from this, it may be stated that despite heavy odds the Government has been able to provide something of the order of Rs. 20 lakhs for Minor Projects. I would not have mentioned this fact, had my hon.

Friends thoroughly and carefully read the Budget. This amount covers nine Minor Project Schemes to be executed in Amritsar, Karnal, Rohtak and Ludhiana districts. I have not sufficient time at my disposal to give minute details about them. I may tell my friends that they should give the Government time to spend this amount and if it fails to arrange for the availability of water to the people concerned, then they can accuse us. Let them exercise a little patience and not feel restive. After the execution of all these minor projects for which a provision of 21 lakhs has been made, people will heartily thank them for having got this work done. Therefore, I would advise them not to raise unnecessary objections about the Budget. They should know that it is through the untiring efforts of the Irrigation Department that during 1949-50, 4,20,000 extra acres of land had been irrigated and six lakh acres in 1950-51. Figures for 1951-52 are not yet available.

Besides this, the thumping success achieved by the Civil Supplies Department in procuring and exporting wheat from this State, is entirely due to the endeavours of the Irrigation Department. These heavy procurements could not have been possible if the Irrigation Department had not arranged to supply water in abundance to the different parts of the State.

As regards Bhakra and Nangal Projects, I can only say that by 1954 water will be available for six months in a year. I hope the plan regarding this will reach the hon. Members on or about 1st July, 1952. Then, Sir, it is hoped that water in these canals shall be made available for irrigation purposes in 1954 and this supply shall be for six months in a year. The hon. Members criticise these engineers instead of congratulating them for their efficient work. In case they are so prejudiced against them that they do not wish to congratulate them, then they should at least keep quiet and not discourage them. Their criticism is absolutely illfounded. As a matter of fact these engineers need encouragement. They have done much useful work.

Further, Sir, I am glad to inform the hon. Members that the two Diversion Tunnels, on which about Rs. 2 crores had been estimated to be spent, are likely to be completed by next May or June.

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Sir, much has been said about Mr. Slocum, an American Engineer, who is considered to be the best dam expert in the whole world. Further, many things have been said about his pay, conditions of service, his powers to purchase machinery and so on. All this shows the poor knowledge of the hon. Members who have indulged in criticism. I request my friends who have criticised his employment by our Government, to study as to how Russia had built its dams. Those were not built by Russian Engineers. Our Government has been successful in securing the services of this engineer, while many other countries have failed in spite of their best efforts. I consider it to be our good luck to be able to have the services of such an able dam expert. The Opposition has criticised him, instead of appreciating his ability. Only an engineer of his standing could be entrusted with such huge construction work in which a 50 miles long and 20 miles broad lake is to be constructed. I also want to inform the hon. Members, Sir, that our Chief Engineers will be doing all this work under the supervision of this American Engineer. By the time this dam is completed our engineers, will have gathered enough experience, to be in a position to supervise the construction of such dams independently and then there will be every possibility of their being engaged by foreign countries for such work.

Sir, now I want to tell you something about Electricity. In the beginning, people thought that the electric energy was only meant for big towns. Now they have come to realize that it can be more useful to the people of rural areas, since they can also use it as power for working tube wells etc. The Government has provided Rs. 46,79,800/- for the year 1952-53 for Joginder Nagar Scheme, Rs. 50,22,800/- for the Thermal Plant Schemes and Rs. 5,10,76,600/- for the Nangal Power Project. Thus in total we have provided Rs. 6,07,79,200/- for these works.

Further, Sir, out of the total expenditure of Rs. 46,79,800/- which has been provided under the Joginder Nagar Scheme, an expenditure of approximately Rs. 19.93 lakhs is anticipated to be incurred on the rural schemes. Then, Sir, out of Rs. 50,22,800/- provided for the Thermal Plant Scheme, a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been earmarked for supplying electricity to 298 irrigation tube wells. Another sum of Rs. 11 lakhs has been provided for electrification of rural areas in the State. Thus in all Rs. 31 to 32 lakhs are to be spent on the electrification of rural areas by which the Zamindar community stands to gain. Under these schemes,

the rural areas of Jullundur District will be electrified. Power will be supplied to villages Fatehgarh Churian, Bundala, Gandasinhwala etc. in district Amritsar. The villages around Ludhiana and Gurdaspur towns are also to be electrified. In Kangra district Palampur, Baij Nath, Maranda, Bhawarna and the tea estates will also be electrified. Nurpur will also receive electric supply. Electrification of Dera Baba Nanak and Sri Gobindpur in Gurdaspur, Sarhali Lanka, Kairon and Naushehra near Patti, village Paya, Butani, Beas and Ajnala in district Amritsar will also come under these schemes. I have tried to justify these demands in the Budget with regard to electricity and irrigation. If, in spite of all this, the Opposition criticises the action of the Government, it will be talking rot (*Bakwas*).

Shri Sri Chand: Sir, I take objection to the word '*Bakwas*' which the hon. Minister has used.

Minister for Irrigation: Sir, I am sorry for that and withdraw that word.

Shrimati Shanno Devi (Amritsar City, West) (*Hindi*): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has placed before us three big volumes of the Budget for the year 1952-53. It is rather difficult to go through these from one end to the other. Here I don't wish to make a reference to all the items of expenditure in the Budget except one or two. In the first place, I would like to submit that I belong to a party which raised the prestige of our country in the eyes of the world and freed it from the foreign yoke. This party placed before it the ideal of Ram Rajya and I would like to urge that, although the Father of the Nation is not with us at this time, we should follow his teachings and draw inspiration from him so that we may be able to act up to the ideals that we placed before ourselves under his leadership. I have never expressed my views during the period of ten months when the Governor was incharge of the affairs of this State. In any case, the people believe, that the Governor's rule was a pointer to the fact that even a single person can run the administration successfully. In this connection it will not be out of place to put before the House the example of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa. It is a well-known fact that when he conquered the Pathans he so much over-powered these valiant people that their women folk used to mention his name to their babies in order to frighten them and make them sleep. To-day our country stands in need of such strong and capable persons. Mere appointment of Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and

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Private Parliamentary Secretaries will not mend matters by itself. So far as the people in general are concerned, they have clearly expressed themselves by voting against communalism in the recent elections. As a matter of fact the masses have crushed the ugly head of the demon of communalism. But we have fallen a prey to another evil of the same magnitude. If communalism is gone, districtism is raising its head. So our work is not yet finished. In fact, it has just begun. We have to root out this evil at the very outset. The masses have voted us to power. Now it is our duty to work honestly for them. The people have placed their faith in us and they say that we have voted in your favour in the hope that mal-practices will go—this old institution, this great institution, the Congress, will prove worthy of its traditions. But when I go through the pages of this volume and find that the expenditure in connection with the salaries etc., of the Ministers has gone up from three lakhs to about six lakhs my head hangs down in shame. It is a question wherein our prestige is involved. If the prestige of the hon. Members is lowered in the eyes of the public, the prestige of the Government will also fall and consequently the administration will get out of control and become corrupt. If the roots wither away, the tree with all its foliage cannot remain in a secure position. So I would earnestly request the Government to cut down such unnecessary expenses which are a burden on the State Exchequer. It is rumoured that the number of Ministers is going to be increased. I have already expressed myself on this point and I say it again, that it is not the number of Ministers that is going to improve the tone of the administration and bring prosperity to the millions that look up to us. The number may be seven or nine, it does not matter. (An hon. Member : Why not increase it to twelve ?) My point is that confidence, unity and trust in one another, are the qualities which go to make up a good system of Government. Ours is a State of uprooted population. We have to rehabilitate the displaced persons and find employment for them. I regret to say that even at this stage the problem of rehabilitation remains to be solved in a satisfactory manner. Of course, what has so far been achieved in this direction is that a few big officers have been rehabilitated. But most of the poor people are being driven from pillar to post. Something should be done for them so that the prevailing discontent may disappear. Our hon. Chief Minister, himself is a displaced person and he well realises the difficulties of these persons coming

from the other side of the border. Even then I would like to suggest to him that the Rehabilitation Department should be over hauled and toned up. When I go round and see the conditions in which the displaced persons are living, I find that they are in a state of suspense. Those who had property worth lakhs of rupees in Pakistan are now penniless and it is difficult for them even to make their both ends meet. Therefore with all the emphasis at my command I press upon the Government the necessity of providing them with adequate relief and thus doing its duty towards them in this hour of need.

Sir, I am simply surprised to see my brothers and fellow workers going in for new cars on the very morrow of their assumption of office. It is only ten months ago that the previous Ministry was dissolved but the cars allotted to the Ministers must be lying with the Transport Department. These could be utilised by the present Ministers. But what do we find? Eight brand new cars have been purchased for the Ministers at a cost of Rs. 1,60,000/-. It appears that my brothers have forgotten their goal. I am strongly of the opinion that we should be fired with the same zeal and spirit of service for the building of the new Punjab, with which Congress was imbued since its birth and with which it fought the struggle of Independence to the end. We have to create a new Punjab, a prosperous Punjab— and for achieving that object every pie should be saved and properly utilised, and all wasteful expenditure should be avoided.

Now I would like to say a few words in connection with the Public Relations Department. If I remember aright, last year a provision to the tune of 8 lakhs of rupees was made for this Department. But this year an amount much larger than last year's has been provided. I know sufficiently about the working of this department. When I was a member of the Public Relations Department Sub Committee, I found that two Directors were sitting in one room. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I need not go into details. But I would only say that the Sub Committee succeeded in effecting a saving of Rs. 1½ lakhs in the department. I feel that there is still much scope for saving a substantial amount from the provision earmarked for this Department. Besides, I have received complaints that this Department does not do any publicity work either in towns or villages. The same old practice of hon. Ministers' photographs along with their statements, appearing in the journals, published by this

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Department continues till now. I take strong exception to this and would request the hon. Ministers to take a pledge not to waste their time in getting their photographs or statements published in these journals.

There is yet another point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government. This is about the tours undertaken by the hon. Ministers. As a matter of fact I do not object to their going on tours. They are essential for seeing things at the spot and coming into direct contact with the masses. But what I object to is this. When they formulate their tour programmes, they should not remain content with sending their programmes to the hon. Members concerned representing those constituencies. It often happens that the Member concerned receives the tour programme after the hon. Minister had completed his tour. (*Laughter*). What I want to impress upon the Government is that the hon. Members of those constituencies, which the hon. Ministers want to tour, should not be ignored. The hon. Ministers should make it a point to inform them of their intended tours in time and must take them in their company during their tours. This arrangement will facilitate matters because the hon. Member representing that particular constituency will be able to guide the hon. Minister much better than anybody else in redressing the grievances or removing the difficulties of the people of that *Ilaga*. I hope that my request will receive careful attention.

There is yet another point of which I must make a mention. Last month most of the hon. Ministers including the hon. Chief Minister remained on tour in the plains. I was here in that month and I happened to meet a few gentlemen. On enquiry I was told that they were members of the Beopar Mandal and had come here to wait in deputation on the Chief Minister who had telegraphically granted them 15 minutes interview. It simply amazed me to hear the Chief Minister calling these gentlemen only for 15 minutes without caring to see that they would be coming at a considerable expense and inconvenience and if this time of 15 minutes did not prove sufficient for them to put their view-point, they would be disappointed. My point is that whosoever comes to Simla, has to incur considerable expenditure and undergo a lot of inconvenience, and therefore, the Chief Minister as also the Ministers should be liberal enough in granting interviews.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Lady Member's time is over. Now I call upon Shri Raghuvir Singh to make his speech.

Shri Raghuvir Singh (Seraj) (Hindi): Sir, I rise today to mention the miserable condition of the backward areas. Only a short while ago, my sister, Shrimati Shanno Devi, during the course of her speech, presented a lucid picture of the miserable plight of the refugees. But I may submit that the condition of the people of the backward areas, who did not suffer the consequences of partition, continues to be as bad as ever. It is no exaggeration to say that their lot is even more miserable than that of the refugees. I reiterate that the backward people residing in the district of Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Gurgaon and also in the sub-mountainous areas of Gurdaspur district stand in need of help from Government in the same way as the refugees. Their problems are a little different from those of the refugees. I would, therefore, like to suggest to the Government to constitute a Survey Commission consisting of experts and those members of this House who are conversant with the problems of these people. This Commission should thoroughly study the economic condition of these backward areas and suggest ways and means and make recommendations by which their amelioration could be brought about. I hope my suggestion will receive active consideration of the Government.

Now I come to the Budget. I need hardly mention that this is an incomplete and broken Budget of the truncated Punjab. This time the people have sent their true representatives through adult franchise, and they ardently desire that Punjab should become a very strong State. But this is not possible so long as our economic condition does not improve. So it is the foremost duty of the Government to adopt measures to make Punjab economically strong. In this connection I would suggest to the Government to appoint an Economic Survey Committee for the State. Its terms of reference should be wider than the Survey Commission, which I have suggested for the backward areas. The Committee should carefully examine the sources of revenue of the State and make suggestions for increasing the income of the Government as well as power of production of the people of the State.

Then I would suggest that motor transport should be nationalised without any delay. Our neighbouring State, the Himachal Pradesh, has stolen a march over us in the matter of nationalisation of Motor Transport. The policy of that State in this regard has proved a great success. There is no doubt that through individual effort the transport industry fetches more income, but loss of income under nationalisation is amply compensated

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for by the rise in the standard of efficiency in the transport industry. Besides, the income derived from this industry will be properly utilised for the betterment of the people, and it will not go into the pockets of any individual or swell his bank balances. I, therefore, feel that nationalisation of Motor Transport will not only bring more income to the Government, but will also provide facilities to the public.

Now I come to the Community Projects. These are very useful schemes but our Government has not cared to derive maximum amount of benefit from them as our neighbouring State, Himachal Pradesh, has done. The latter had only one Community Project for a particular area but it has spread it or distributed it in all its four districts. In the Punjab the Government has selected only 4 small areas for the introduction of Community Projects. I wish these projects could have been distributed over a larger area.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is over.

Hon. Members: I have to announce that from 12.30 p. m. the hon. Ministers will start making speeches. I have decided to allot 15 minutes to the Minister for Education, 10 minutes to the Minister for Local Self Government, 5 minutes to the Minister for Development and 1 hour to the Minister for Finance. The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh has already spoken for half an hour. So this completes the quota of time reserved for the Ministers. Now I have only 10 minutes left at my disposal, which I can give to two hon. Members for making short speeches.

Now the Secretary of the Legislature will make an announcement.

Secretary: I have the honour to announce that the Punjab Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill, 1952, which was passed by this Assembly on the 17th June, 1952, and sent to the Punjab Legislative Council for recommendations has been received back. It has been returned by the said Council today, the 20th of June, 1952, without any recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: Now I call upon Shri Hari Chand to make his speech.

Shri Hari Chand (Anandpur) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, after all I have caught your eye and I feel grateful to you for your having permitted

me to make a speech. I offer my heartiest congratulations to the hon. Finance Minister for presenting a lucid Budget. It adds to my pleasure to find a gentleman holding the portfolio of Finance, with whom I had an opportunity to work in another sphere. (Voices: Reviving old memories). Yes. Well, Sir, the Finance Minister has made no secret of the fact that ours is a deficit Budget and it is natural that we shall have to tap certain sources to balance it. But one thing about the Budget has pained me very much and that is this. Whereas large provisions have been made for a good many schemes, not a single pie has been set aside for the betterment of the Hoshiarpur District. If this point is brought to the notice of the Government, then we are quietly told that financial stringency stands in the way of the Government. It may be stated that during the bye-election from the Una Constituency in 1949, almost all these gentlemen, who are now occupying the ministerial 'gaddis', visited that *Ilaga* and are fully conversant with the miserable condition of the people there. But it is a pity, that despite the fact that now they are at the helm of affairs they have not moved even their little finger to provide anything for the amelioration of the condition of the poor people of that Tehsil. This is a Budget which has not been presented by the Unionist or any other party, but by the Congress Party itself and yet it is an irony of fate that no provision has been made for the uplift of the people of Una Tehsil in particular and Hoshiarpur District in general.

Is the Government aware that there is no high school for boys in tehsil Una? For girls, we have not got even a middle school. How can this backward area be raised to the standard of other parts of the State? The Deputy Leader complained that hon. Members spoke for particular tehsils and districts and did not keep the interests of the State as a whole before them. Is not Tehsil Una a part of the Punjab? What has been done to improve conditions in this area? The Government has given us the Chos Act with its four clauses. People have been prevented from keeping goats and camels. Instead of helping these poor people, the Government has deprived them of their only means of livelihood. Can it be called justice?

Among other matters, the hon. Minister referred to Bhakra and Nangal Projects on the completion of which the districts of Hissar and Ferozapore will receive canal water. No compensation was given to the petty landowners whose lands were acquired by the Government in connec-

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tion with the execution of these Projects. After digging pits in them, these lands had been returned to their owners after a period of three years. Some of my hon. Friends complained about lack of irrigation facilities in their constituencies. I would like to tell them that our Government wants to make money from whatever source it can. In Hoshiarpur, a tax of three rupees per head is charged even on the supply of drinking water. We have been demanding that one-third of this tax should be borne by the District Board, one-third by the Government and the remaining one-third by the people. There was a time when District Hoshiarpur was known as the garden of the Punjab but chos and khuds have damaged most of its fertile land. If proper steps are not taken in time, the entire area will become barren and unproductive. The Government has taken no steps to train the chos and nullahs. Their banks need immediate repairs. The Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, wrote to the Government that for keeping thirty khuds in the district in proper condition, he should be given Rs. 20,000/- per khud, but it paid no heed to his request.

The hon. Minister stated that the Government had advanced loans for digging tube-wells and huge sums had been spent on the work connected with the Grow More Food Campaign. It was suggested to the Government that if Thanas Nurpur and Balachaur were attached to Tehsil Una, many needs of that Tehsil would be met. Pumping set scheme was started and money was advanced to the people for various other purposes but nothing else was done for the people of my Tehsil. If we are not provided the necessary facilities and nothing is done for our uplift, we will remain backward and will not be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with other people of the Punjab.

Sardar Hari Singh : (Dasuya,) (*Hindi*): Sir, many hon. Members have expressed their views with regard to this Budget and some of them have described it as a Police Budget. Though I feel that it cannot be called a poor man's Budget, still I do not agree with those who described it as a Police Budget. In my opinion, these hon. Members did not take the trouble of reading it. Do we not find in this Budget an attempt at achieving the ideals which Gandhiji used to preach? If some new tax is levied the people resent it, and if some step is taken against the services, they bring recommendations from influential people. Even under these circumstances the hon. Minister for Finance has included a number of beneficial

schemes in this Budget and we should congratulate him on it. Our Ministers had spent many precious years of their lives in the struggle for independence of the country and it was naturally to be expected of them that on assuming the reins of office, they would take every possible step to banish poverty and illiteracy from the State. I hope that they will come upto our expectations and will bring about prosperity and happiness in the State.

Mr. Speaker : A large number of hon. Members are rising in their seats in order to take part in the debate. About fifty speeches have been delivered during the general discussion of the Budget. Seventeen speeches were delivered on the first day, seventeen on the second day and twelve hon. Members have spoken today. Four hon. Ministers have still to reply to the debate. This will bring the total number of speeches to fifty. By the time the general discussion on the Budget ends, fifty Members out of the total number of one hundred and twenty five will have participated in the debate. If all the hon. Members want to speak, they should request the Leader of the House to allot at least four or five days for general discussion.

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) (Hindi) : Sir, I have listened with rapt attention to the forty odd speeches that have been delivered on the floor of the House for the last two days. Criticism levelled at the Government has been partly constructive and partly for its own sake. My portfolio includes three Departments, namely, Education, Transport and Health. As two separate days have been allotted for discussion on the demand for education, I leave this subject for the present. Transport Department and policy of the Government has come in for a greater share of criticism than any other department. So, today I would try to reply to this criticism only.

It has been suggested that road transport should not be nationalized because, firstly, the experiment made so far has not proved a profitable proposition for the Government in spite of the increase in fares and secondly it has caused inconvenience to the public owing to the amenities not having been provided. Before saying anything else, I would like to quote facts and figures, dry no doubt, but essential to dispel the misconceptions of those hon. Friends who have been persistently making a propaganda here as well as outside that no profit has so far accrued

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to the Government and that its transport services are running at a loss. Now, Sir, our total capital investment is of the order of Rs. 38,14,959/- and the total net profit is Rs. 16,55,961/-. Interest on capital comes to Rs. 2,45,858/-. Then we have a reserve fund of Rs. 10,23,383/- ; interest on it being Rs 53,936/-. This brings the total income to Rs. 29,89,141/-. Now let us take into account the taxes from which the Government-operated services are exempt and which the private operators would have paid had they been operating these services. These are the Registration fee, the Roads Tax, the Sales Tax, the Income Tax and the Permit Fee. While the first and the third are paid by these services, the remaining are not. Now, in 1948-49, Government-operated services should have paid Rs. 852/- as Permit-Fee, Rs. 9,340/- as Road Tax and Rs. 49,268/- as Income Tax. For 1949-50, the corresponding figures are Rs. 2,454/-, Rs. 22,088/- and Rs. 71,780/-. In 1950-51, they should have paid Rs. 5,033/-, Rs. 60,125/- and Rs. 2,59,759/- respectively. For 1951-52, the corresponding figures are Rs. 6,463/-, Rs. 95,226/- and Rs. 2,59,758/-. Now if the total amount payable on account of various taxes from which the Government-operated services have remained exempt is deducted from the net profit, the balance of profit comes to Rs. 7,51,817/-. These figures speak for themselves and give the lie to the propaganda that the Government-operated transport services are running at a loss.

Now let us proceed further. If the Reserve Fund of Rs. 10,23,383/- and the sums of Rs. 2,45,858 and Rs. 53,936/- which represent interest on the capital and the Reserve Fund respectively are added to this balance of profit, the total comes to Rs. 20,74,994/- which represents the money that has so far been repaid to the State Exchequer by Government transport services. If to this amount is added the sum of Rs. 5,65,630/- spent by them on constructions of sheds, stands etc., the total receipts from buses come to Rs. 26,40,624/-. Our fleet of 200 buses is of the value of Rs. 28,66,008/-. Even by making an allowance for depreciation, its present value is not less than Rs. 20 lakhs. The Government will be a gainer by Rs. 8 lakhs even if these undertakings are wound up today. I would welcome any impartial inquiry into the operation of bus services. When we claim success for them, it should not be taken as a bluff.

Sardar Chanan Singh: Please supply us copies of these facts and figures.

Minister for Education: Yes, I shall certainly do that. Now a few words about the comfort and convenience of passengers travelling in omnibuses. If travelling in an omnibus is really so inconvenient as has been described by some friends, how is it that people flock round an omnibus in preference to the lorry run by private operators. No doubt the passenger has to pay a little higher fare but the seat he gets in an omnibus is definitely more comfortable, being quite separate. It is just like inter or second class seats in a train. It is true we have not yet been able to provide the amenities that we want to. However, I must point out that booking offices, waiting rooms, canteens and lavatories have been provided at Nakodar, Tarn Taran, Kalka, Karnal, Jullundur and Simla. Retiring rooms for the staff have also been provided. Retiring rooms for passengers exist at Kapurthala, Jullundur, Nakodar, Karnal and Jagadhri.

In order to provide amenities to the travelling public the Government has decided to construct 20 queue sheds in different districts. Two sheds have been constructed in Amritsar and Jullundur and the remaining will be constructed in the course of a few months. So far as the question of nationalisation of road transport is concerned, this question does not arise at this stage and we are honour-bound to abide by the agreement made by the then Minister for transport—Sardar Kartar Singh—in the Bhargava Cabinet. My hon. Friend Sardar Wazir Singh had told me that we should first consult the transport operators before taking up the work of nationalisation of transport. I had accepted his advice and discussed the matter with the transport operators for two days. After that I had told them that the Government proposed to start Government bus service on the lines of Pepsu, Delhi and Jammu-Kashmir according to the previous agreement. We have absolutely no intention of making any infringement of the agreement already arrived at by the Bhargava Government.

There are at present 27 transport companies managed and run by refugees and 42 companies are such as are managed by non-refugees. My hon. Friend had remarked yesterday that the Government's decision would displace and throw out of employment many refugees who are honestly earning their living in this trade. I may tell him that I am a refugee myself and have a soft corner for my refugee brethren. I am always prepared to discuss the matter with the transport operators and convince them that the Government is only taking up those routes which were agreed upon by

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the previous Government. I am glad that my hon. Friend Sardar Wazir Singh is in favour of nationalisation of road transport but I feel surprised that my Communist friends are opposed to this idea. I do not understand their opposition when in Communist Russia every industry is nationalised. They have trumped up the argument that the Government should first nationalise Banks and Insurance Companies. By advancing such arguments they feel perhaps that the Government may postpone the idea of nationalisation of road transport. I would, therefore, inform the House that the Government is prepared to discuss the matter with the bus operators and convince them that it is honouring only that agreement which was made with the operators sometime back.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma)
(Hindi): Sir, during the short time which is at my disposal I would like to make a few observations in order to remove certain misunderstandings under which some of my hon. Friends are labouring.

I am glad to say that very little criticism has been made by the hon. Members against my Departments viz, Local Self-Government and Civil Supplies. I had thought that my Departments will come in for severe criticism but I am glad to find that all seems to be well with my Departments. Sir, none will deny the fact that the problem of food is of such a vital importance that no Government can run successfully without solving it. My hon. Friends who have expressed the view that controls be abolished should know that the policy of food control was initiated by the previous Government. These controls have not been completely abolished even in Madras. What has been done there is that the whole State has been divided into zones comprising a number of deficit districts which are linked with one or more surplus districts. My hon. Friends should understand that if our State at this stage follows a policy of decontrol it will prove disadvantageous to it.

There was, however, a proposal before the Government for the formation of a zone, comprising Punjab, Pepsu and Delhi in which food may be decontrolled. But the difficulty is that in this way we cannot effectively check the inter-State movement of foodgrains from Pepsu and Delhi. So far as Delhi and Pepsu are concerned, the zonal restrictions on foodgrains movement are not strictly observed and thus the cases of unauthorised

inter-zonal transport are very large in number. It is no use making such an experiment, if we cannot effectively deal with the situation of retaining inter-State barriers. Besides, the policy of decontrol is likely to result in the rise of prices of foodgrains. There is always a continuous and unremitting vigilance on the part of the Government to prevent soaring of prices. Our State being surplus in wheat has surrendered the stock of 11,000 tons of imported wheat in order to render aid to Delhi. If the Government of Delhi had imported wheat from Bombay it would have to pay more. We have also promised to supply 60,000 tons of wheat more to Delhi. We have done our best by releasing ample stocks of wheat for Delhi and I hope there will not be any reasonable cause of complaint by the residents of Delhi that Punjab has not come to their rescue. Moreover, the Government has received complaints that the members of the District Food Supply Committees do not sometime attend these meetings and take little interest in the work. Now the Government has decided to reconstitute these Committees. This work in fact cannot be done satisfactorily without the co-operation of the public. With regard to the reconstitution of these Committees, we have called for the recommendations of the district authorities and will have also to take the advice of M. L. As.

Besides, Sir, complaints are being received against the Commission Agents. In this connection, I would like to make it clear that our Government desires that a few people should not derive an unduly large share of profits. But instead, it should be distributed amongst a larger number of persons. Then, Sir, the agricultural labourers complained that while the Zamindars were allowed to keep foodgrains for their own consumption they were not permitted to carry home foodgrains that they received in lieu of their wages for having worked on the fields. In order to redress their grievances, Government have permitted these labourers to carry home a load of $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of foodgrains on their person and when the procurement is complete Government will consider giving further relaxation in this regard. Government has also taken decision, for experiment's sake, that milling orders may be withdrawn in two of the towns—one in Ambala Division and the other in Jullundur Division ; and if no complication arises the Government intends to withdraw these orders from the State as a whole. If the conditions improve there will be no need for keeping these orders in force. Again, Sir, despite the specific orders of the Government in this respect, Harijans were experiencing difficulties in getting depots of foodgrains.

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Now, in order to help Harijans, Government has asked the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts to submit a report every month indicating the number of depots allotted to them.

Then, Sir, at the time of my visit to Ferozepore, it was represented to me that as cloth was freely available in the open market, the restrictions imposed on the depot-holders in connection with cloth control may be removed. Previously, a depot-holder was not allowed to prefer an appeal for a period of three months after the cancellation of his licence. But, now the Government have relaxed this condition and a depot-holder will be allowed to prefer his appeal even on the next day of the cancellation of his licence.

Now, Sir, a few words about the Local Bodies. Some defects have been reported in the management of certain District Boards and the Government has no mind to show any leniency in their case. It has come to the notice of the Government that the Harijans are being put to unnecessary harassment by some of the Inspectors on the pretext of realization of the professional tax and drastic steps will be taken by the Government to set the things right. The elections to these bodies are going to be held shortly. But, before the elections take place, the Government aims at overhauling the structure of these bodies. The Government is not in favour of suspending these bodies. Nevertheless, it takes a serious view of the presence in them of Members who indulge in mal-practices and would like to substitute them by as honest persons as possible. Although very little time is left at the disposal of the Government, yet, all-out efforts will be made to gain this end. If the hon. Members desire that the elections should be held before the 31st December, it will be possible to do so on the basis of the old electoral rolls and if it is the wish of the House that elections should be held on the basis of the new electoral rolls then that would be possible only after the 31st December. If any new name is to be included in the lists it can be done by making the prescribed payment of Rs. 50/- only.

Minister for Development : Sir, a reference has been made by the Leader of the Opposition, Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa, to the effect that communalism is rampant in public services. It is true that the officers do not carry any sign of honesty on their person and it is indeed a difficult task to distinguish them as such. Both good and bad officers exist. In fact

these officers were recruited at the time when we had not cast off the shackles of slavery and the entire recruitment was made purely on the basis of communal representation. I am well aware of the fact that communalism is still traceable at some places but the Government will do all in its power to curb it with a strong hand. I would like to request my hon. Friends through you, Sir, that the persons who approach them and talk about communalism in services should be discouraged and it should be made clear to them that if at all they have some complaints in this connection they should see the Ministers and explain such cases to them in detail so that their grievances may be redressed. In this regard, the instance of Hissar Cattle Farm has been brought in as a typical case. I am aware of the correct situation prevailing over there. The persons alleged to have been victimised in this case will not prove to be above board when their turn comes. They simply want to grind their own axes by raising the stunt of majority community and minority community. But, I may tell them that their tactics will not succeed. I would like to convey it to the masses through the House that the evil of communalism shall prove disastrous for all. The wounds inflicted on us during the holocaust of communal riots have not been healed up as yet. We have got a bitter experience of communalism and I want to make it clear to the House that communalism in any shape will not be tolerated either in the Panchayats or the public services. I wish to give a stern warning to all those officers who align themselves with political parties in order to camouflage their corruption and inefficiency and tell them in plain words that never will they be allowed to do so. They will be awarded such deterrent punishment that they will learn the lesson of their life.

Sir, I have not forgotten the promises which I had made with the electorate in my capacity as President of the State Congress or on my own behalf during the elections. I still stand by those promises and our Government is trying its level best to fulfil these at the earliest.

One of these promises was regarding the reduction in the rate of abiana. The matter is under our full and active considerations. We wish to thrash out every aspect of this problem before we arrive at any decision. We want to have the opinions of experts on this issue, because it is our sincere desire, that we may not be forced to revise our decisions after we have once made them.

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As regards the abolition of Zaildari, I want to inform the hon. Members sitting opposite that this case is also with us for final decision. So far, only two or three Zaildars have been appointed at two or three places ; two at Rohtak and perhaps one at Amritsar. Besides, these, Zaildars have been appointed in the Kangra District. We hope to decide this matter very soon. It is also hoped that the will of the people would prevail and this system of Zaildari would be abolished.

With regard to the problems of tenants in the State, our Government is determined to safe-guard the interests of tenants. We have already taken steps in this direction and intend to secure their tenancy rights by bringing forward a fresh legislation very soon. We are committed to giving them safeguards and are doing every thing for their betterment.

Then, Sir, I want to make one thing clear to the hon. Members of this House. Certain newspapers are indulging in wrong propaganda against our Government.

With regard to the question of return of abducted girls after the recent decision of the High Court, I may inform them that this problem of recovery of abducted girls is the direct concern of the Central Government and not of the Punjab Government. Some times we have to carry out orders received from there. Therefore, a wrong propaganda is being carried on against our Government by certain sections of the press.

Sardar Nidhan Singh: Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that by the time the High Court is able to decide this case, it is feared that all the tenants may be ejected.

Minister for Development: I think the hon. Member was not attentive.

Minister for Finance: (Sardar Ujjal Singh) (Punjabi): Sir, whereas, I thank those hon. Members, who have taken pains to go through this Budget with a critical eye and have given certain constructive suggestions, I also thank those hon. Members who have expressed their opinions on its contents in all sincerity even though they have not cared to study it.

I assure all the hon. Members of this House that we shall consider all the suggestions which have been made by them. I hope some of these suggestions will prove very useful when we try to put them into effect.

We shall try our very best to mould the destinies of our State by working on the constructive suggestions given by the hon. Members. Hon. Members of all shades of opinion have expressed their views on this Budget. Some have said that it is a 'Unionist Budget', others have called it a rich man's Budget as according to them it does not provide any thing substantial for the poor. Some of them have dubbed it a 'Bankrupt Budget'. They have criticised it according to their own view points. But, Sir, the fact is that it is neither a 'Police Budget' nor a 'Bankrupt Budget'.

Sir, it may be that this Budget has certain shortcomings. We may not have been able to do what ought to have been done. But I can say with confidence that it contains certain things which are definitely for the betterment of the country. In the first place an hon. Friend has alleged that it contains no provision for the uplift of the ruralites. Had such an allegation come from a Unionist, it would have been understandable but I regret to point out that a Congressman has levelled such a charge against us. The Congress stands for nationalism. It believes that the good of the country lies in the evolution of a classless society and that without it no progress can be achieved. Today no one can claim to be higher than any other by birth alone. There are equal opportunities for all. In my opinion distinctions based on religion, caste or creed should not be allowed to cloud our thoughts and actions and as a matter of fact they are not in the larger interest of the country as a whole. Moreover, in actual practice no hard and fast line can be drawn between urban and rural problems. We cannot keep them in water tight compartments. There are schools, colleges and hospitals in the cities. Do the villagers not use them as their own? In factories the labour and the raw materials are supplied by the villages. Do the producers of sugar-cane not demand that there should be a sugar factory in a nearby town? When I toured Haryana Prant, people asked me to set up a sugar factory at a certain place and the farmers were the foremost to make a request for one.

Shri Sri Chand : But did the hon. Minister agree to their request and set up a factory there?

Minister for Finance : The Government is prepared to give land, loans, electricity and every other facility for the purpose provided some one comes forward to set up a factory. Sir, I was saying that it is illogical to have any distinctions based upon mere residence in a village or town. There are many institutions in cities which bestow benefits upon the

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ruralites as well. If we look at the details of expenditure on various items in the Budget we can easily notice that the villages have not been ignored in any respect. Revenue Account provides for an expenditure of Rs. 17,48 lakhs. If we analyse it we will find a provision of Rs. 7,42 lakhs for the villages—Rs. 28 lakhs for the cities and Rs. 7,98 lakhs as mixed (*i.e.* both for villages and towns).

Of the capital expenditure the villages have a share of Rs. 1,22 lakhs and the cities, of Rs. 6,11 lakhs. The common expenditure on capital account is Rs. 6,54 lakhs. But I may again assure the House that no discrimination has been made in this respect. As a matter of fact our intention is to raise the standard of living of the people irrespective of their caste, creed or place of birth. It is our foremost duty to strive for the development of villages because it is there that poverty and misery stalk. I am myself a villager and no body can say that I have no love for the land. I possess a thorough knowledge of agriculture because I have been working on the fields with my own hands. I know what yield the various crops give per bigha. Nobody should entertain any doubts that I will sacrifice the interests of the villagers in any way.

Sir, another matter which has been raised on the floor of the House is that the Government has incurred huge debts which are a burden on our Exchequer. In this connection, I wish to submit that in order to understand the implications of these debts which will rise up to an amount of Rs. 87,71 lakhs by 31st March, 1953, it is necessary that we should have a detailed picture of our financial position before us. In fact there should be no cause for any alarm on this account. The debts that we are incurring are being invested in productive schemes. Out of the total debt of Rs. 87,71 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 65 crores is invested in productive schemes. Another sum of Rs. 22 90 lakhs is earmarked for schemes like Ferozepur Canals, Rehabilitation, Housing schemes etc., which may be productive to a certain extent. Only a sum of Rs. 81 lakhs is going to be spent on schemes of unproductive character. So there should be no undue apprehensions with regard to these loans. Chaudhri Lahri Singh has already stated what amount of loans are meant for Bhakra and Nangal Projects out of this big sum. No doubts should be entertained that with the setting up of the Control Board the pace of work at Bhakra and Nangal will be slowed down. The loans are received from the Centre. So, naturally

the Central Government has a right to take part in the execution and supervision of these undertakings. It has been estimated that the work at Bhakra will be completed by 1957-58 and when completed we will have water enough to irrigate about sixty-five lakh acres of land, four lakh kilowatts of electric energy and an increased production of 11,30,000 tons of foodgrain.

Then, Sir, the Capital Project of Chandigarh has come in for scathing criticism at the hands of my hon. Friends opposite. It has been stated that crores of rupees are being wasted on this venture and so on. I hope my hon. Friends will agree with me that after the loss of Lahore, we must have some place which should be the seat of the Government and where the Secretariat of the Government could be located to run the administration of the State of Punjab. Now that place must have a sufficient number of up-to-date buildings to accommodate Government Offices. This condition must be fulfilled before we can move down to another place. We come up to Simla because we had ample accommodation here for our Secretariat and other offices of the Government. Our Friends daily lay stress on the fact that the Government must leave the Simla heights and shift to a place in the plains. They suggest Jullundur, Ludhiana or Ambala, without caring to know whether these places offer sufficient accommodation for the location of Government offices. So it is obvious that to whatever place the Government shifts, be it Ludhiana or Jullundur or Ambala, it shall have to construct buildings for its offices. Now in the present case the difference lies in the fact that the buildings instead of being constructed at the places suggested, will be constructed at Chandigarh. In the other words the huge expenditure on buildings, which has been criticised by my hon. Friends over there, is unavoidable. It will have to be incurred, no matter whatever place is selected as the seat of Government.

Shri Sri Chand : But at the places in the plains suggested by us, the Government will not have to bear any extra expenditure on roads, drainage etc.

Minister for Finance : True. But this expenditure does not make any appreciable difference, as I will presently show. In this connection I had a detailed discussion with the Chief Engineer, Chandigarh Project. He told me that he had thoroughly examined the question and had arrived at the conclusion that the construction of underground drainage, roads etc. would cost at the most 50 or 60 lakhs of rupees. This makes no

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material difference because the major expenditure comes under the category of buildings for the Secretariat, High Court, the Assembly Chamber etc. Hence it is crystal clear that the sum of Rs. 308 lakhs, set apart for the Capital Project, will have to be spent, no matter where you build your Capital.

Then, Sir, I repudiate the charge levelled by my hon. Friends opposite that the Capital was being built for the Nawabs of Lahore. I say with all the force at my command that this is a baseless charge, as the Capital is meant to rehabilitate displaced persons apart from providing a place for the seat of the Government. Here displaced persons from all places like Rawalpindi, Multan, Lahore etc., who are at present drifting from pillar to post, without finding any shelter, will get plots of land on payment for purposes of building residences and commercial houses. I do not know who those Nawabs are who are agitating the minds of my hon. Friends. I have at least no knowledge about them.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : But the hon. Minister cannot deny that the cost of plots is inordinately high.

Minister for Finance : True. But if my hon. Friend wants the State Capital to be built on modern lines, containing an up-to-date drainage system, roads and other amenities of life including the community centres, naturally the cost of development will be high and it will certainly react on the prices of the plots. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I need not dilate upon it and now I pass on to the item of Police.

It has been stated that the expenditure on Police is enormous and it is a great burden on the poor tax-payer. I quite agree that the Police gets the largest share of our revenues. But as I have already stated both in my budget speech and the Memorandum to the Budget, the main reason for this comparatively high expenditure on the Police in our case has been our proximity to the border, the responsibility for the policing of which devolves on the Punjab Government. That is why we have to set apart a sum of Rs. 273 lakhs for Police during 1952-53. But this does not mean that we have made this provision haphazardly. I may tell the House that we are quite wide awake and we thoroughly examine every provision before we make it. We try our level best to cut down expenditure wherever it is possible. But the difficulty is that we have to incur an expenditure to the tune of 80 lakhs of rupees on the protection of our borders. But we are

not sleeping over this matter, as we genuinely feel that this is the responsibility of the Government of India and the latter should bear this expenditure. We are carrying on correspondence with the Indian Government on this subject.

I think my hon Friends simply waste their breath when they say that this Government is inertia-stricken and does not try to impress upon the Government of India the desirability of meeting this expenditure and that nobody cares to hear our case. I may tell the House that the first thing I did after assumption of office as Finance Minister was that I contacted the Finance Minister of the Central Government, explained to him the whole position and asked him to grant a subsidy to the Punjab State equivalent to the amount spent by it for guarding the borders. He said that he would consult the Home Ministry but advised me to apprise the Prime Minister of the whole case. I acted upon his advice and the hon. Prime Minister promptly replied that he had forwarded my letter to the Home Minister. I then met the Home Minister of the Government of India and made everything clear to him on the subject. Dr. Katju was very sympathetic and finding some force in our case, told me that he would call a meeting of his advisers and thoroughly discuss the matter. The hon. Members will realise that we have not been sitting idle over this matter and whatever we have been able to do during a period of a month and a half, no other Government was able to do even during four years.

Then an objection has been taken by my hon. Friends opposite to certain words which have found place in the Memorandum to the Budget. They considered them objectionable and they remarked that the Finance Minister signed the Budget without caring to read it. This was an uncharitable remark. It may not have been possible for me to examine every figure from one end of the Budget to the other, but I assure the House that whatever little time I got, I examined every major detail. I compared the present provisions with the last year's figures and expenditure was reduced wherever there was any room for it. I did so in the case of every department. But this does not mean that whatever I have done is infallible. I am always open to correction and am prepared to admit my mistake where I feel convinced. I, however, assure the House that in future every effort will be made to avoid the occurrence of any such word in the Memorandum to the Budget as may be considered objectionable (*Cheers*).

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal: But what are the words to which objection has been taken?

Minister for Finance : Something like political, criminal activities of a certain party are on the increase.

One of my hon. Friends referred to a circular letter issued by the Public Relations Department. He produced a copy of it in the House. It was marked 'Secret' according to his own admission, but I do not know how he secured a copy of it. Every body has a right to express his views in the House and also to propagate them outside but I wish to inform my hon. Friends that so long as they believe in subversive activities, it will be necessary for the Government to counteract them. I feel that our propaganda machine is weaker than that of the party to which these gentlemen belong. There is need of strengthening our machinery.

Sardar Achhar Singh : As Members of the Legislature we have certain rights which cannot be denied to us.

Minister for Finance : I feel that this literature should not have been circulated among the Members of the Legislature. It was meant for libraries and institutions only and not for individuals. We directly communicate to the public the information which is meant for them. This particular literature was meant for institutions only and it was not proper for these hon. Members to adopt such methods of propaganda.

Sardar Chanan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is it open to the hon. Minister to say such things about the elected representatives of the public ?

Minister for Finance : My hon. Friends should not be upset. They have been returned to this House by the people of their constituencies and not by any party.

Sardar Chanan Singh : The people who elected us knew about the party to which we belong.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Member should not interrupt the hon. Minister. He will have many opportunities of expressing his views, and in any case the Members should address the Chair.

Sardar Chanan Singh : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : If the hon. Member persists in interrupting the hon. Minister, I shall have to take stern action against him.

Sardar Chanan Singh : I do not care for that.

Minister for Finance : It was said that the treatment of the Police with the general public was not good and that corruption existed in that Department. I admit that there is some truth in this complaint. I am sorry that sometimes the Police does not treat the villagers in the proper manner, but I can assure the House that the Government is trying to bring about a change in their attitude. The popularity of the Government depends upon the treatment which the Police metes out to the people and we are determined to see that our police officers are courteous towards the general public. If they ill-treat the people, they bring a bad name to the Government. I am fully conscious of the necessity of bringing about a change in the outlook of the Police. As regards corruption, it cannot be denied that it exists to some extent in the Police and the Public Works Departments. I want to inform the House that whenever we come to know that a certain official is corrupt, we lose no time in taking action against him. My hon. friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh has told me that a number of persons against whom there were charges of corruption have been dismissed from the Public Works Department.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Does the Government propose to appoint an Anti-Corruption Committee?

Minister for Finance : Such a Committee already exists. When a complaint is received that a Government servant is corrupt a thorough enquiry is made into the matter. Recently, the Government issued a circular letter to all the heads of Departments to the effect that if they knew that an officer working under them was corrupt and they failed to inform the Government about it, they themselves would be held responsible for corruption. The Government cannot succeed in eradicating this evil completely unless the morals of the public also improve.

Then, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition complained that the members of a certain community were not recruited in the services. He went on to say that the system of making recruitment on the basis of merit and efficiency was merely a device to deprive the rural people and the Sikhs of their right of entering Government service. I wish to tell him that under our Constitution, which is regarded by all the democratic countries as one of the best constitution in the world, there can be no discrimination on the basis of class or community. It was said that the Sikhs and other

[Minister for Finance]

minority communities were not getting their proper share in the services. If a Hindu happened to be the head of an office, he sometimes recruited person who was related to him or was the son of a friend. In that case the Sikhs complained that injustice had been done to them. Similarly, if a Sikh officer recruited some one known to or connected with him, Hindus made the same complaint. Whenever such things are done, these are not done on the basis of any communal consideration. Their object is to provide one's own people. The Government wants to make it clear that an officer, whether he is a Hindu or a Sikh who recruits his relatives or friends in this manner acts in a highly improper way and serves neither one community nor another.

We are anxious to rid our country of the curse of nepotism and make merit the sole criterion of selection for Government posts. This is bound to raise the efficiency and morale of the services. I want to advise my Sikh brethren to take their stand on right things and to assure them that if any injustice is done to a Sikh simply because of his being a Sikh, I would be the first person to raise my voice against it. (*Cheers*). As to what should be the criterion for judging merit and the relative importance to be attached to bookish knowledge and bodily development, we leave this question to the Punjab Public Service Commission which is known for its impartiality and good work. When the work of recruitment to services will be entrusted to it we hope no one will have any occasion for complaint.

Sardar Bhag Singh: What about the giving of 15 per cent share in the services to the scheduled castes ?

Minister for Finance: They will get it provided they satisfy the minimum qualifications that are required for a post. If any complaint is brought to our notice that such and such Harijan candidate satisfied the minimum qualifications and was not selected, we shall certainly remove it.

I take this opportunity of dispelling the misunderstandings prevailing about the Rehabilitation Department. So far as the allotment of land is concerned, that work is almost complete.

Some applications for review or revision remain to be disposed of. This work is expected to be completed by the 31st August. People who have been resettled on land will not be asked to shift again. My hon.

Friend Shri Abdul Ghani had made a complaint about the inadequacy of the arrangements made by the Government for the resettlement of Meos. I want to quote facts and figures to remove his doubts. According to the enumeration of 1948, 21,074 Meo families owned land. Out of these, 4,759 families had left their lands. Out of these, lands have been restored to 4,615 families. Only 18 applications are pending. Some have not applied for restoration of their lands. The remaining application to which Chaudhri Mohd. Yasin Khan has referred were 347 in number. Out of these, 208 have been rejected and 139 are under consideration and will be decided very soon. In District Ambala, the Muslims owned 16,500 acres of land. Out of this area, land equal to 16,000 acres has been returned to them. In Buria, 1500 acres of land out of 1700 acres owned by Muslims have been returned to them. Applications relating to restoration of land in Panipat Tahsil are being dealt with by the Deputy Commissioner of the District.

Then, Sir, an hon. Friend has drawn from this Budget curious conclusions about our expenditure on education and public health. According to him, it is no more than a few annas per head. For the information of the House in general and the enlightenment of this friend in particular, I want to compare the Punjab Budget of 1952-53 with the Budgets of other States in regard to expenditure on such beneficent activities, while according to this Budget, per capita expenditure on public health in the Punjab is Rs. -/9/3, in Uttar Pradesh it is -/5/5, in Orissa -/5/1, in Madhya Pradesh -/5/5, in Madras -/5/2, in Bihar -/3/11 and in Assam -/9/-. (Sardar Chanan Singh): This is the picture of the Congress Raj) Only two States, namely, Bombay and West Bengal are ahead of us in this matter. Comparing similar figures for education, it will be found that we spend Rs. 1/9/2 per capita on education, while per capita expenditure on education in all other States ranges from /15/- to Rs. 1/3/-. Bombay excels all other States in this matter. Here per capita expenditure on education is Rs. 3/8/-. Similar is our position with regard to our expenditure on industries.

Now a few words about the working of the Public Health Department. While the number of deaths resulting from Cholera in this State in 1944 was 1812, in 1951 it was 11 only. While plague took a toll of 61, in 1944, 203 in 1945, 245 in 1946, now the number of its victims has been

[Minister for Finance]

reduced to nil. The death rate which was 26.7 per thousand in 1944 was only 16.6 per thousand in 1951. These figures speak for themselves and show the improvement that has taken place in the health of the people as a result of the efforts of the department concerned.

I am glad that many people have started industries in the State. The industry of cycle parts at Ludhiana has been making good profit though recently its business had become slack. I have myself seen this industry and I think that we should be proud of it as it gives employment to many skilled labourers of our State.

There are two important industries at Ludhiana viz., cycle industry and hoisery industry. We are considering the question of giving protection to these industries (Voices: Are you giving them any subsidy?). The question of giving subsidy does not arise at this stage. By manufacturing cycle parts this industry is making a good deal of profit. These cycle parts are exported to Madras and other States, but the only drawback is that there is no proper standardisation of these parts.

Sometime back the Government of India imported a huge stock of cycle parts from abroad with a view to making them available to the public at cheaper rates. The other reason which influenced the Government of India was that the price of steel which was required for manufacturing cycle parts may not shoot up beyond reasonable limits. I met the hon. Minister for Commerce, Government of India and requested him to lend us the services of some expert technician who may help us in the standardisation of the cycle parts manufactured at Ludhiana. Moreover, I requested him that if the cycle parts are properly standardized then the Government will not feel the necessity of importing them from the foreign countries. The hon. Minister assured me that he would consider this matter.

This industry is at present working below its capacity for not getting as much quantity of steel as it requires for its use. It is not getting even one-third of its requirement and that supply too it cannot obtain without the help of the Government of India. The Government is conscious of their difficulties and is taking steps to remove them.

Some of my hon. Friends have gone to the length of suggesting that the posts of Financial Commissioners and Commissioners should be abolished and that the dearness allowance should not be admissible to officers

drawing over Rs. 1,000/- per mensem. In this connection I may inform my friends that it is quite easy to make such suggestions but the Government will have to consider the repercussions of such a step and to see that the demand for the discontinuance of the present arrangement will not create difficulties in the way of the working of the administration. I may assure them that the surplus staff in the Civil Supplies Department and other departments will be retrenched and my hon. Friend the Minister for Civil Supplies has also given an assurance to this effect.

Sardar Nidhan Singh : I may draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the land in my district has become unfit for cultivation on account of water-logging. The Government has not devoted any attention towards land reform.

Minister for Finance : Moreover, Sir, the Government has been very anxious not to burden the people with new taxes. However, in order to meet the unforeseen and abnormal expenditure, it has decided to impose a nominal tax of one pie per anna on the fare of the passengers and goods carried by motor vehicles. In the end, I would say that during this short period we have tried to the best of our ability to serve the State. We have made every endeavour to afford all possible relief to the poor and have also increased the salaries of low-paid employees. We have also abolished the special pays of officers and have given scholarships to the students belonging to backward classes. We have also reduced the prices of text books to a reasonable level. Though we have not yet reached the goal yet I can say that the way in which we are proceeding will lead to the progress and well-being of the State.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, 25th June, 1952.

Punjab Legislative Assembly

Debates

25TH JUNE, 1952

VOL II NO. 7

OFFICIAL REPORT



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 25th June, 1952

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker: First, I would like to know hon. Members' opinion with regard to the retention of the Question Hour today.

Some hon. Members : It should not be dispensed with.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUPPLEMENTARIES TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 33.*

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works kindly state the reasons for selection of Chandigarh as the site of the new Capital ?

Minister for Public Works: Full information in this regard is given in the brochure which was placed on the Table of the House the other day.

* Government's reply to question No. 33 appears in the list of 17-6-1952.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a feeling in the general public that this site was selected under the pressure of a Minister of the then Government at the Centre ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed. This supplementary question does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementaries to starred Question No. 103* were also postponed the other day and Shri Dev Raj Sethi was permitted to ask the same on the next sitting. Since he is not present in the House nor does any other Member seem to be desirous of making interpellations on that question, I call upon Shri Prabodh Chandra to put his question.

PUBLICATION OF PERIODICALS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

*** 37. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the Periodicals published by the Punjab Government together with the number of copies of each printed during the period 1951-52.
- (b) the total expenditure incurred on such publications together with the income, if any, received from the sale of these periodicals during the year 1951-52 ;
- (c) the number of paid subscribers of these periodicals;
- (d) the number of copies of these periodicals that are sent to the Railway Book stalls and news agencies for sale and the number of copies so sold during 1951-52 ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

(a)	I. OUR PUNJAB	(English)	1250 copies per month.
	II. PRADEEP	(Hindi)	1400 copies per month.
	III. VEER BHUMI	(Gurmukhi)	1300 copies per month
(b)	Total expenditure incurred)		
	during 1951-52)		Rs. 18734.
(c)	Income		Rs. 6100.
	(i) OUR PUNJAB		200.
	(ii) PRADEEP		604.
	(iii) VIR BHUMI		465.

*Government's reply to starred question No. 103 appears in the list of the 17th June 1952.

(d)	Number of copies sent to stalls for sale.	Number of copies actually sold.
(i) OUR PUNJAB	2564.	2010.
(ii) PRADEEP.	3830.	3100.
(iii) VEER BHUMI.	3900.	3200.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The Chief Minister has stated that the expenditure incurred on the publication of the priodicals is about Rs. 18,700 and the income from their sale is of the order of Rs. 6,100. May I know whether the difference is accounted for by the copies which are supplied free?

Chief Minister: It is understood.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS.

* **38. Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total amount spent by the Government on advertisements in different newspapers during the year 1951-52 together with the amount paid to each newspaper on that account?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :- The total amount spent was Rs. 2,03,359/12/9. A statement showing the sum spent in the case of each newspaper is placed on the Table. The total sum includes an expenditure of Rs. 39,128/- in connection with the General Elections.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN
STARRED QUESTION NO. 38.

Chief Minister :

1. Total amount spent by the Government on advertisements in different newspapers during the year 1951-52. Rs. 2,03,359-12-9.

2. Amount paid to each newspaper during the year 1951-52.

Name of the newspaper.	Amount paid.
1. Tribune, Ambala Cantt.	83,931-8-9
2. Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta.	701-0-0
3. Hindu, Madras.	677-8-0
4. Bombay Chronicle, Bombay.	398-0-0
5. Free Press Journal, Bombay.	1459-0-0
6. Times of India, Bombay.	9896-0-0
7. Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	39,961-3-0
8. Indian News Chronicle, Delhi.	1567-4 0
9. Statesman, New Delhi.	14,532-10-0
10. Hindustan Standard, Calcutta.	2075-6-0
11. National Herald, Lucknow.	279-0-0
12. Leader, Allahabad.	282-12-0
13. Akhil Bharat, Bombay.	98-0-0
14. Modern Times, Delhi (Weekly).	30-0-0
15. E.M.E. Journal, Calcutta.	35-0-0
16. Indian Engineering, Calcutta.	40-0-0
17. Indian and Eastern Engineering Co. Ltd.	78-12-0
18. Tej, Delhi.	1,299-14-0
19. Ajit, Jullundur and Delhi.	4,599-12-0
20. Hind Samachar, Jullundur.	3,227-0-0
21. Milap, Jullundur and Delhi.	5,414-0-0
22. Vir Bharat, Amritsar and Delhi.	6,956-12-0
23. Pratap, Jullundur and Delhi.	7,073-0-0
24. Prabhat, Jullundur.	2,843 2-0

Starred Questions and Answers

(7) 5

25. Sher-i-Bharat, Amritsar.	198-0-0
26. Driver, Jullundur (Weekly).	1,603-6-0
27. Dogra Sandesh, Dharmasala (Weekly).	40-0-0
28. Atalique, Delhi (Weekly).	49-4-0
29. Jat Gazette, Rohtak (Weekly).	655-0-0
30. Haryana Ilak, Rohtak (Weekly).	690-0-0
31. Balidan, Karnal (Weekly).	65-0-0
32. Punjab Transport, Amritsar (Weekly).	1,079-12-0
33. Transport Gazette, Delhi (Weekly).	707-0-0
34. People, Delhi.	30 0-0
35. Sanmarg, Banaras.	20-0-0
36. Tej, Ludhiana.	48-0-0
37. Qaumi Awaz, Lucknow.	72-0-0
38. Aj, Banaras.	126-8-0
39. Hindustan (Hindi), Delhi.	692-0-0
40. Hindi Milap, Jullundur.	6,382-0-0
41. Pratap, Kanpur.	155-0-0
42. Akali Patrika, Jullundur.	1,239-6-0
43. Sikh, Chheharta, Amritsar	360-10-0
44. Vartman, Amritsar.	279-0-0
45. Khalsa Sewak, Amritsar.	310-0-0
46. Roadways, Ambala Cantt. (Weekly).	1,099-15-0
42. Nirbhai Yodha, Ludhiana.	25-8-0
48. Indian Express, Delhi.	66-0-0

Grand Total Rs. 2,03,359-12-9

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is there any list of newspapers to which the Government doesn't give any advertisements for insertion ?

Chief Minister : No.

—————
**ALLOTMENT OF BLOCKS OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO
GURGAON DISTRICT.**

* 96. **Shri Babu Dayal :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the blocks of community projects allotted to Gurgaon District ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : None so far; but the question of including two blocks around Faridabad is under consideration.

—————
ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO REFUGEE LANDLORDS.

* 104. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of refugee Landlords district-wise who have not so far been allotted any land in the State ;
- (b) the total area involved in their claims ;
- (c) the steps so far taken, or intended to be taken by the Government for allotting lands to them?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) 7721.
- (b) 22366 standard acres.

A statement showing district-wise details in respect of (a) &

(b) is given below.

- (c) Allotments will be made to such persons from unallotted land evacuee shamilat, banjars and from lands which will become available on the cancellation of allotments made on bogus claims.

Statement showing unsatisfied parcha claims as it stood on 12-6-1952.

Serial No.	Name of the District	No. of parcha claims	Area in standard acres.
1.	Lahore.	206	2,124
2.	Montgomery.	102	805
3.	Lyallpur.	490	4,978
4.	Muzaffargarh.	67	800
5.	Bahawalpur.	88	1,495
6.	Sialkot,	928	1694
7.	Sind.	8	71
8.	N. W. F. P.	14	110
9.	Multan.	1,309	2,893
10.	Gujranwala,	2,793	3,291
11.	Jhelum,	17	21
12.	Mianwali.	11	29
13.	Shaikhupura.	923	4,180
14.	Attock,	—	—
15.	D. G. Khan.	—	—
16.	Rawalpindi.	349	46
17.	Gujrat.	381	38
18.	Sargodha.	28	226
19.	Jhang.	7	15
		<u>7,721</u>	<u>22,366</u>

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does the Government propose to compensate those claimants who have not been allotted any land so far for the loss they have suffered as a result of non-allotment for quite a number of years ?

Minister : This number includes those also who were allotted land but who did not take possession of it. There are others who did not file any claim. The question of compensation, therefore, does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : But so far as I know land was not allotted to them because there was no more evacuee land at the disposal of the Government. Therefore, the question of giving compensation has to be considered.

Mr. Speaker : This is no question.

ALLOTMENT OF MORTGAGED LAND IN THE STATE.

*105. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total area of land mortgaged by Muslim evacuees with the local people district-wise in the State ;
- (b) the estimate of the amount needed for redemption of such lands ;
- (c) whether the Government intend to allot mortgaged land before or after redemption to the deserving claimants ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) & (b) A statement showing the total area of land mortgaged by Muslim evacuees with local residents and the mortgage money involved in each district of the Punjab is given below.

(c) The Government of Punjab wished to allot these lands to displaced land-owners from Western Pakistan and took up the matter with the Government of India. The latter have not yet decided to allow the Punjab Government to allot these lands to displaced landowners from Western Pakistan.

Statement showing evacuee area mortgaged with local residents in East Punjab.

District: Mortgaged area.		(Standard acres)		Mortgage money (Rupees of)			REMARKS
Under unsfructury mortgage:		Under mortgage with possession	Total	Area under usufructury mortgage.	Area under mortgage with possession.	Total	
1. Jullundur.	119	4,298	4,417	51,679	2,221,846	2,283,525	
2. Ludhiana.	53	3,351	3,404	34,082	2,47,2574	2,506,656	
3. Hoshiarpur.	609	4,017	4,626	101,192	3,912,747	4,013,939	
4. Ferozepur.	1,623	20,610	22,233	157,808	670,8,232	6,866,040	
5. Gurdaspur.	320	5,199	5,519	117,374	665,9,832	6,777,206	
6. Karnal.	1232	8,944	5,176	213,192	639,609	852,801	
7. Amritsar.	501	8,898	9,399	154,022	5,013,212	5,167,234	
8. Hissar	869	7,613	8,482	88,674	1,718,238	1,806,912	
9. Kangra.	9	323	332	3,952	164,095	168,047	
10. Ambala.	878	4,222	5,100	161,629	2,806,082	2,967,711	
11. Rohtak.	Not available.	3,676	3,676	Not available.	1,145,549	1,145,549	
12. Gurgaon	165*	5,911	6,076	34533*	3,041,269	3075802	
Total Punjab.	6878	72,062	78440	1128137	36503285	37631422	

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know when these arrangements are likely to be made ?

Minister : This depends upon the Government of India.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know when this case was referred to the Government of India ?

Minister : I don't remember exactly the date. We have written to the Government of India many times.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : When was the last reference made ?

Minister : I don't remember exactly the date. Probably it was made during the last month when the meeting of the Rehabilitation Board was held.

ALLOTMENT OF SHAMILAT LAND TO REFUGEE CLAIMANTS
IN THE STATE.

***106. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Shamilat land has been allotted to refugee claimants in satisfaction of their claims; if so, the number of such allottees and the Shamilat area thus allotted, district-wise in the State ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Culturable shamilat lands in the possession of Muslim evacuees were included in the original scheme of quasi-permanent allotment of land and these lands were allotted to displaced persons like other evacuee lands. Unculturable shamilat lands falling to the share of Muslim evacuees in the Karnal, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Ferozepur districts are also being utilised for allotment to displaced land-owners. The figures about the area of shamilat land so far allotted and the number of allottees is not readily available as un-culturable evacuee shamilat land in the districts mentioned above is still being utilised for allotment.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether Government has taken any steps to remove the grievances of refugees who have not been allotted shamilat lands ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the original question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It does, Sir. Since the refugees are co-sharers of that village they are of course interested in their shamilats. It should not be allotted as such. They have not been given any recompense for their claims in West Pakistan. It is double injury to them, Sir. Is the Government doing anything to give them compensation for the losses they have sustained in West Pakistan ?

Minister : Well, I want notice to answer this question.

PUNJAB STATE DRESSERS ASSOCIATION.

*95. **Shri Babu Dayal Sharma:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab State Dressers Association have from time to time submitted memoranda to the Government
 - (i) for the increase of their pay according to the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission ;
 - (ii) for nominating at least two deserving and able dressers for the M.B.B.S. class ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, the action taken thereon ;
- (c) for allowing them to practice dressing according to para XVI of the Manual ;
- (d) for allowing them to enjoy Gazetted holidays or compensating them by allowances ;
- (e) for dressers being named as medical assistants ?

Shri Jagat Narain.

- (a) (i) and (b) Yes. The scale of pay of Dispensers - Dressers was enhanced from Rs. 35-2-45/2-55/2-65/2-75 to Rs. 55-3-70/4-90/5-120, from the 3rd November, 1950. Their pay was increased by Rs. 15 to 20 p.m. in each case.
- (a) (ii) No. The admission to the M. B. B. S. class by nomination has been discontinued altogether.
- (c) The question is receiving the consideration of Government ;
- (d) The Dispenser - Dressers cannot be allowed gazetted holidays, as it is not possible to close Hospitals/Dispensaries on such holidays. The Dispensers-Dressers are duly compensated in the shape of free residential house or house rent allowance, in lieu.
- (e) Government see no justification to change the designation of Dressers. None of the States in India has designated them as Medical Assistants.

CLOSING OF HOSPITALS IN GURGAON DISTRICT

***97. Shri Babu Dyal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of hospitals closed in Gurgaon District during this year, together with the reasons thereof ?

Shri Jagat Narain. Two Relief Camp Hospitals at Palwal and Gurgaon were closed in April, 1952, but were replaced by outdoor Dispensaries in May last. Besides, a subsidized dispensary at Hathin has been shifted to Bhundsi, as the residents of the former village experienced difficulty in collecting the usual contribution of Rs. 600/- per annum needed for its maintenance. No other hospitals or dispensaries have been closed in the district of Gurgaon.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE PUNJAB FACTORIES ACT.

***124. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of prosecutions launched under the Punjab Factories Act in the State during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 and the result thereof ;
- (b) the date of the institution of prosecution in Court, the time taken in the trial and the date of judgement by the Court in each case ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh. (a) 279 and 330 prosecutions were launched during the Calendar years 1950 and 1951, respectively. Of the former, 275 ended in conviction and the offenders concerned were fined by courts, and four cases ended in acquittals ; while the result of the cases instituted during the year 1951 have not so far been collected. As the information for purposes of annual reports is collected on the basis of Calendar and not Financial years, the above information has been supplied for Calendar years only.

(b) It is regretted that the information asked for cannot be supplied as the time and labour involved in collecting the same will be incommensurate with the benefit likely to accrue.

NEWSPAPERS ON THE APPROVED LIST FOR GOVERNMENT
ADVERTISEMENTS

***39. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government maintain any special list of the approved newspapers for the purposes of inserting their advertisements ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. The Government do not maintain any special list of approved newspapers for purposes of inserting their advertisements. As far as possible the principle of rotation is observed.

NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

*40. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

- (a) the new appointments made by the Government during the year 1951-52 ;
- (b) whether these appointments were made through and in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Service Commission if not, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. The time and expense required to answer the question will not be commensurate with the results.

SELECTION FOR THE P. C. S.

*41. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any selections were made for the P.C.S. during the period from June 1951 to April 1952 ; if so, the names and qualifications of selected candidates ;
- (b) whether any list of candidates for the P. C. S. was approved just before the present Government assumed office ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.

- (a) Yes ; The names and qualifications of the selected candidates are as follows :-

P.C.S. (EXECUTIVE BRANCH)

Register A-I (Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars)

- I. 1. Thakar Jugal Kishore, B.A.L.L.B., Officiating Tahsildar.
- 2. Malik Ganga Dhar, B.A., (Hons) L.L. B., Officiating Tahsildar.
- 3. Thakar Fateh Singh, B.A. P.E.L., Tahsildar.
- 4. S. Naranjan Singh, B.A., Officiating Tahsildar.
- 5. Ch. Murari Singh, B.A.L.L.B., Officiating Tahsildar.
- 6. S. Gurdial Singh, B.A. (Hons), Officiating Tahsildar.
- 7. S. Lal Singh Aujla, B.Sc., Naib Tahsildar (Candidate).

Register A-II (Ministerial Government Servants).

- II. 1. Shri Jhangi Ram Dhingra, B.A., Secretariat Officer, Civil Supplies Department.
2. S. Harbans Singh, B.A.L.L.B., Secretariat Officer, Civil Supplies Department.

Note :—The candidates on Registers A-I and A-II were selected strictly in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

Register B (COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION)

- III. 1. Shri Brij Lal Mittal.
2. Ch. Dasondha Singh.
3. S. Kulwant Singh.
4. S. Rajindra Singh.
5. Shri Krishan Lall Jhingan.
6. Shri Bal Raj Kapur (eventually did not join).
7. Shri Jagmohan Singh.
8. Shri Pran Nath Bhatnagar.

Note :—They were selected by Government, strictly in the order in which they stood in the Competitive Examination.

SCHEDULED CASTES.

(Recruited in consultation with the Public Service Commission).

- IV. 1. Shri Dharam Rattan, M.A., Inspector, Sales Tax Office, Old Secretariat, Delhi.
2. Shri Thakar Das, B.A. (Hons.), Assistant Manager (Administration) Government of India Press, New Delhi.
3. Shri Muni Lal Targhatia, B.A., Officiating Zilladar, Punjab P.W.D., Irrigation Branch.
4. Shri Gian Chand, B.A., Clerk, Prime Minister's Secretariat, New Delhi.

P.C.S. (JUDICIAL BRANCH)

- V. 1. Shri Kanwar Krishan Gujral.
2. Shri Bal Krishan Aggarwal.

[Chief Minister]

3. Shri Ved Parkash Aggarwal.
4. Shri Amar Nath Aggarwal.

Note :—They were selected for temporary appointment to the P.C.S. (Judicial Branch) as a result of the Competitive Examination held by the Public Service Commission in 1950, strictly in order of merit.

- (b) Yes ; in respect of P.J.S. (Executive Branch) on Register A-II (Ministerial Government Servants) only.

—————

POSTING OF PUNITIVE POLICE IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***153. Ch. Maru Singh Malik:—** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that punitive police has been posted in villages Khanpur Kalan, Kasand, Kasindi, Gamri and Nait of Police Station Gohana, District Rohtak;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative (i) the strength of the police force posted there (ii) the cost that the Government or the inhabitants of those villages will be required to bear (iii) whether any class or community has been exempted from the payment of the punitive tax; if so, why;
- (c) the number of cases registered under the Indian Penal Code during the period from 1st January 1950 to 8th August 1950, 9th August 1950 to 31st November 1950 and from 1st January 1950 to date pertaining to these villages ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) 1 A. S. I., 1 H. C. and 12 F. Cs. including contingency reserve.
(ii) Rs. 26, 050 to be borne by the inhabitants of these villages.
(iii) No.
- (c) 3, 2 and 16 respectively.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: Does not the expenditure incurred on punitive Police Posts which are located in different villages exceed the amount of the land revenue of their villages ?

Chief Minister : It might exceed.

USE OF GOVERNMENT OWNED CARS BY M. L. As. AND M. L.Cs.

***163. Shri. Sri Chand :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government cars supplied to the Ministers have been utilised for giving lifts to the members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council (i) from and to the railway station or the bus stand to their places of destination at Simla, (ii) from their places of destination to Assembly or Council Chambers to attend the Session and (iii) for visiting friends and relations;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that these cars were freely used by the Members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly for purposes mentioned in part (a) above during the month of May, 1952 when the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly were in session?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) & (b) In the absence of names of M. L. As and Ministers concerned being given, this question cannot be replied to. Under the rules, however, a car can be used by a Minister at headquarters and at places of halt for journeys within ten miles' radius for non-duty purposes. At Delhi this limit is twenty miles.

Shri Sri Chand : Do the Ministers pay for petrol from their own pockets ?

Chief Minister : May I read the answer again for the benefit of my hon. Friend ?

Shri Sri Chand : I have already heard it.

Mr. Speaker : Then your question does not arise.

SACHAR MINISTRY SCANDAL.

***164. Shri Sri Chand :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the news at page 4 of the Daily "Partap", dated the 22nd May 1952, under the heading :

" Sachar vazarat ka scandal, private kamon ke liye sarkari k r " "Chun kufra, az kahbah barkhezad " wala mamla ration qawaid ki khilaf-varzi."

has come to his notice;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether he has made any enquiries in the allegations contained in that news item ;

[**Shri Sri Chand**]

- (c) the result of the enquiry, if any ;
- (d) whether the allegations were not found correct ; if so, whether he has contradicted the news or is prepared to contradict the same ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :—

- (a) Yes, at the instance of the hon. Member. The Chief Minister went from Bagha Purana to Fazilka on a private visit and, therefore, did not charge any T. A. for this visit. He has also paid for the cost of propulsion for this part of the journey and back. Under the rules governing the use of Government cars by Ministers such cars can be used for private purposes beyond a radius of 10 miles if the cost of propulsion is paid.
 - (b) No, and none was called for.
 - (c)&(d) Do not arise.
-

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN THE STATE.

***128. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the date when the work of Consolidation of Holdings started in the State ;
- (b) the tehsils in which this work is going on at present ;
- (c) the strength of the staff engaged for this work in each tehsil ;
- (d) the date when the work of land consolidation started in Nurpur Tehsil ; and the number of villages of the tehsil where this work is actually going on at present and the progress made so far ;
- (e) the date when the work in the first batch of villages is expected to finish ;
- (f) whether the Government has given any instructions to the Consolidation staff regarding the width of roads connecting various villages with each other to be laid out during the consolidation work ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table.

The date when the work of Consolidation of Holdings started in the State.	The tehsil in which this work is going on at present.	The strength of the staff engaged for this work in each Tehsil.	The date when the work of land consolidation started in Nurpur Tehsil and the number of villages of the Tehsil where this work is actually going on at present and the progress made so far.	The date when the work in the first batch of villages is expected to finish.	Whether the Government has given any instructions to the Consolidation staff regarding the width of roads connecting various villages with each other to be laid out during the consolidation work.																																																
a	b	c	d	e	f																																																
Sometime in 1920.	Tarn-Taran, Batala, Nurpur, Garhshankar, Phillaur, Moga, Samrala, Rupar, Thanesar, Rohtak, Hansi, and Gurgaon Tehsils. Besides, work of a few villages of Amritsar, Patli (Amritsar distt.) Gurdaspur (Gurdaspur distt.) Hoshiarpur, Dasuya, Una. (Hoshiarpur distt.) Jullundur, Nawanshahr, Nakodar (Jullundur distt.) Ludhiana, Jagraon (Ludhiana district, (Kharar, Ambala, Jagadhri (Ambala distt.) Karnal, Panipat (Karnal distt.) Gohana, Sonapat, Jhajjar (Rohtak distt.) Tehsils, is also being completed.	<p>The following staff is on duty in the Tehsils selected for intensive consolidation work while the work in other Tehsils is being done by the ordinary Revenue staff, with the co-operation of the staff working in selected Tehsils,</p> <table><thead><tr><th>S. No.</th><th>Name of Tehsil.</th><th>Patw-Qa-Asstt. Consolida- ris nun- tion</th><th>Officers</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Tarn-Taran</td><td>184</td><td>37</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Batala</td><td>209</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Nurpur</td><td>30</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Garhshankar</td><td>217</td><td>36</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Phillaur</td><td>180</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>Moga</td><td>230</td><td>49</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Samrala</td><td>156</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>Kupar</td><td>160</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>Rohtak</td><td>199</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>Hansi</td><td>169</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>Gurgaon</td><td>150</td><td>30</td></tr></tbody></table>	S. No.	Name of Tehsil.	Patw-Qa-Asstt. Consolida- ris nun- tion	Officers	1	Tarn-Taran	184	37	2	Batala	209	32	3	Nurpur	30	5	4	Garhshankar	217	36	5	Phillaur	180	33	6	Moga	230	49	7	Samrala	156	30	8	Kupar	160	30	9	Rohtak	199	40	10	Hansi	169	25	11	Gurgaon	150	30	(i) Middle of November, 1951. (ii) 68 Tikas (iii) List of field numbers has been completed in 53 Tikas, while the lists of names of right holders have been completed in 46 Tikas. Khatauni Ishtemal has been completed in 45 and classification and valuation in 39 Tikas while the draft schemes have been put up in 6 Tikas and measurement is also going on in 6 Tikas.	By July, 1953	Yes.
S. No.	Name of Tehsil.	Patw-Qa-Asstt. Consolida- ris nun- tion	Officers																																																		
1	Tarn-Taran	184	37																																																		
2	Batala	209	32																																																		
3	Nurpur	30	5																																																		
4	Garhshankar	217	36																																																		
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10	Hansi	169	25																																																		
11	Gurgaon	150	30																																																		

Shri Ram Chandra : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state what width of roads connecting various villages with each other to be laid out during the consolidation work was allowed ?

Mr. Speaker : The statement is laid on the Table. How does this supplementary question arise ?

Shri Ram Chandra : Sir, I have received a copy of the statement and I am putting that question which arises out of it.

Minister for Development I had a paper with me wherein it was stated how much the width of the road shall be from village to village, from village to forest farms, and from village to pucca road but it so happened that I lost that paper.

UTILIZATION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY GENERATED AT JOGINDER NAGAR.

***113. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the average volume of electric energy generated at Jogindernagar;
- (b) the total electric power in kilowatts given to Punjab (P) as a result of the first contract with the Pakistan Government after the partition and the rates charged ;
- (c) the total electric power in kilowatts being given now as a result of the latest renewed contract ; and the rates charged ;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government during the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1952 to utilize this energy in the Punjab (India) ;
- (e) the approximate period within which the remaining electricity would be wholly and fully utilized within the Punjab (India) ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

- (a) Average maximum demand of electric energy generated at Jogindernagar during 1951-52 was 32,100 K. W.
- (b) The first contract was executed for the year 1949-50 Maximum demand of 9,000 K. W. per month was contracted to be supplied throughout the year at the following rates —
 - (i) From 1st April 1949 to 30th November 1949 for 9,000 K. W. Maximum Demand Nine pies per unit.
 - (ii) From 1st December 1949 to 31st March 1950. First 5,000 K. W. Nine pies per unit.
Above 5,000 K. W. One anna per unit.

(c) The contracted figures are :—

- (i) Maximum Demand of 6,000 K. W. during summer months i. e. from 1st April 1952 to 30th November 1952 and
- (ii) 2,500 K. W. of Maximum Demand during winter months.

Rate of charge is 13.5 pies per unit.

(d) Maximum possible development of the Uhl River Scheme was carried out in Punjab (I) increasing the Maximum Demand of about 13,500 K. W. in 1947-48 to about 24,500 K. W. in 1951-52.

(e) 4-5 years.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state if our Government had entered into the second agreement with the Pakistan Government in 1949 and what rates were charged before 1949 ?

Minister : All the terms and conditions had been decided in the first agreement which our Government had entered into with them immediately after the partition.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It has been stated that it will take the Government from 4 to 5 years at least to utilise the remaining electricity; if so, cannot Government decide this thing within 2 to 3 years keeping in view the present needs of our State ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

TOWNSHIPS IN THE STATE UNDER EIGHT MARLA SCHEME.

***107. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of townships in the State under eight marla scheme, and the number of houses remaining unsold therein ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the demand for eight marla plots and the need for building loans for such plots ; if so, whether Government has any plans for such plots ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) Number of townships under eight marla scheme : 14
Number of unsold houses : 830
- (b) Survey of the needs of eight marla plots is conducted in all districts from time to time. At a few places there is still a demand for eight marla plots and buildings loans. Further schemes to

meet this demand, however, have not been sanctioned, as unbuilt up plots under other schemes are still available for sale at these places and no funds have been placed at our disposal by the Government of India for undertaking fresh schemes of eight marla plots.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The Minister for Finance has stated that about 8000 houses have not yet been disposed of, may I know the reason for it ?

Minister : At one or two places water and electricity are not available, otherwise houses are quite good.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did not the Government inquire before the building of these houses whether these houses were actually needed at those places ?

Minister : This does not arise out of it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it for the Minister or for the Chair to decide whether any supplementary arises or not ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : What has been decided by the Government about the houses which have not yet been disposed of ?

Minister : Efforts are being made to dispose them of, and in case they are not, then Government will let them out.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is Government prepared to sell them at a price below the cost price ?

Minister : It has not yet been decided.

RELIEF TO PERSONS AFFECTED BY FIRE IN THE STATE.

***114. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the places in the State from where reports of fire reached Government, with requests for financial help as a relief measure during the months of April and May, 1952 ;
- (b) the financial or other help given by the Government in such cases ;
- (c) whether he will place on the Table a copy of the general instructions on the subject of relief to persons affected by fire.

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : -

(a) & (b) The fires which broke out during the months of April and May, 1952 and were reported to Government with requests for relief sanctioned or otherwise, are as under :—

Name of place.	Relief sanctioned by Govt. or present position of the case.
1. Village Lalowali, Tehsil Fazilka, Distt. Ferozepore.	Besides local help got arranged through a special official deputed from the headquarters, Government sanctioned a relief of Rs. 5,100/-.
2. Village Badalke, Tehsil Muktsar, District Ferozepore.	Sanctioned Rs. 2100/-
3. Village Palakh, Tehsil Nurpur, district Kangra.	Sanctioned Rs. 650/-
4. Chaura Bazar, Ludhiana.	Detailed proposal from the Deputy Commissioner is awaited.
5. Villages Attepur, Malikpur, Kale Chak, Taloor and Akhroty in Tahsil Pathankot, district Gurdaspur.	-do-
6. Village Ghamror, Tehsil Dehra, Distt. Kangra.	-do-
7. Village Mohidinpur, District Karnal.	An enquiry has been made from the Deputy Commissioner and his reply is awaited.
8. Village Chak Mabain Har Do Dhandi, Tehsil Ferozepore.	Funds under head "54-Famine" from which such relief is given have exhausted. Request for the funds has been made to F. D. Pending for want of provision of funds.
9. Petition from Shri Nanak Harijan, Basti Harijan near Badshahi Bag; Ambala City requesting relief on account of the destruction of Rabi crop by fire.	A reply to the enquiry made from the Deputy Commissioner is awaited.

(S. Partap Singh Karion)

- (c) As laid down under serial No. 4 of paragraph 20.22 of the Book of Financial Powers gratuitous relief is generally afforded to those sufferers of a natural calamity who without help would be short of food especially the Kamins and póorer classes dependent upon harvest.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The hon. Minister has stated that Rs. 2100/- and Rs. 5000/- have been given to the people of two villages, may I know what was the estimated loss at each place ?

Minister : I cannot say off-hand.

PUNJAB UNIVERSITY SENATE.

*139. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether his Department is taking any step—

- (a) to end the nominations to the University Senate by the Chancellor ;
- (b) to give representation to school teachers on the University Senate ;
- (c) to remove the special reservation for principals and professional colleges in the College Teachers Constituency of the University Senate ;
- (d) furthermore, whether the Government is contemplating any steps to give further representation to college teachers on the University Senate ?

Shri Jagat Narain :—

- (a) No.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) No. However, the amendment to Punjab University Act in the light of the recommendations of the University Commission report is under consideration.

SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDUM BY JULLUNDUR COLLEGE TEACHERS.

*140. **Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he will lay on the Table the memorandum submitted to him during the last week of May, 1952, by the Jullundur College Teachers regarding security of service of College Teachers and their right of appeal to an impartial tribunal ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The Memorandum in question is as follows.

The Matter is still under consideration.

MEMORANDUM BY JULLUNDUR COLLEGE TEACHERS REGARDING SECURITY OF SERVICE.

We, the undersigned teachers of Jullundur Colleges feel alarmed at the increasing number of arbitrary termination of services of teachers in the private colleges of the State, often without specifying even the grounds for such action. Such cases have resulted in a feeling of growing insecurity amongst us, which is bound to affect, adversely the interests of education in the State.

We feel that it is against all canons of equity and justice to dismiss a teacher (or for that matter, any employee) without giving him a specific charge-sheet and affording him a chance to clear himself of such charges before an impartial Tribunal.

We wish to point out that college teachers in the neighbouring States of Delhi and U.P. are already enjoying this right, and the U. P. Government has, in some cases, intervened and set aside such arbitrary decisions of the Managing Committee.

We, therefore, demand that the recommendations of Sir Radhakrishnan University Commission and of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Punjab Government regarding the right of appeal to an impartial tribunal be, at once, implemented without the additions made to them by the Punjab University Syndicate.

D. A. V. COLLEGE, BOYS SECTION.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. D. D. Narula | 2. D. N. Sharma |
| 3. S. S. Widge | 4. S. L. Hans |
| 5. P. S. Puri | 6. Satya Dev |
| 7. M. R. Kanwar | 8. P. D. Chaudhry |
| 9. G. S. Chaudhry | 10. K. C. Joshi |
| 11. D. C. Bhalla | 12. D. D. Menon |
| 13. A. C. Deveshwar | 14. O. Bannerjee |
| 15. S. D. Rehan | 16. R. K. Bhardwaj |
| 17. Ram Krishan | 18. P. P. Tara |
| 19. R. P. Shridhar | 20. C. L. Arora |
| 21. K. B. Bhatnagar | 22. Parma Nand |
| 23. S. R. Nayar | 24. C. S. Rao |
| 25. Brahm Dev | 25. V. P. Malhotra |
| 27. Karatar Singh | 28. G. L. Chopra |
| 29. Shri Ram Sharma | 30. H. R. Jindal |
| 31. D. R. Kapur | 32. K. C. Chopra |
| 33. S. K. Puri | 34. B. S. Bahl |
| 35. A. N. Sharma | 36. K. C. Jain |
| 37. Jaswant Singh | 38. Sushil Kumar |
| 39. Dharam Pal Sharma | 40. D. R. Khurana |
| 41. Chanan Singh | 42. Kishan Chand |
| 43. P. L. Kochhar | 44. Bansilal |
| 45. D. K. Aggarwal | 46. Vishwa Nath Saigal |
| 47. O. P. Gupta | 48. B. N. Kakar |
| 49. S. P. Malhotra | 50. Kuldev Sawhney |
| 51. D. S. Rastogi | 52. Hans Raj |

(Shri Jagat Narajn)**D. A. V. COLLEGE GIRLS SECTION.**

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 53. J. Chopra (Miss) | 54. N. Chadha (Miss) |
| 55. M. Saraf (Miss) | 56. S. Narula (Mrs.) |
| 57. K. Sehgal (Miss) | 58. B. Agnihotri |
| 59. Sushila (Shrimati) | |

DOABA COLLEGE.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 60. Pradeep | 61. D. D. Bibra |
| 62. S. L. Chopra | 63. Satya Pal Sharma |
| 64. P. C. Midha | 65. P. L. Sharma |
| 66. Yog Prakash | 67. D. D. Gopal |
| 68. Ved Prakash | 69. Gian Chand |
| 70. T. V. S. Murty | 71. S. C. Kishore |
| 72. D. R. Hooja | 73. H. K. Mohan |
| 74. Prem Datta Verma | 75. Yograj Sharma |
| 76. D. R. Jain | 77. Madan Gopal Sood |
| 78. Amba Prasad | 79. Ganpat Rai |
| 80. Yodh Singh | 81. G. C. Sehgal |
| 82. Tek Chand | 83. G. Rai |
| 84. S. P. Galota | |

LYALLPUR KHALSA COLLEGE.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 85. Sardul Singh | 86. Ajit Singh |
| 87. Kirpal Singh Kasel | 88. Wasawa Singh |
| 89. Piara Singh Gill | 90. Pritam Singh |
| 91. H. B. Singh | 92. Jia Lal Handa |
| 93. Harcharan Singh | 94. Bhan Chand |
| 95. Zora Singh | 96. Mehnga Singh |
| 97. Asa Singh | 98. Gurbachan Singh |
| 99. Sadhu Singh | 100. Balbir Singh Dil |

**GRANT OF COMPENSATION TO LABOURERS DURING SEASONAL
UNEMPLOYMENT.**

*126. **Shri Ram Chandra Comrade** : Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state :--

(a) whether there are any Factories in the Punjab which work with full strength only in special seasons ;

(b) the provision made by the Government to give compensation to the Labour of these factories during the periods of seasonal unemployment.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : (a) Yes, the following types of factories work with full strength during special seasons only :—

- (i) Rice Mills
- (ii) Tea Factories.
- (iii) Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories.
- (iv) Sugar Mills
- (v) Ice Factories
- (vi) Oil Mills

(b) There is no statutory provision to grant any compensation to the Labour of these Factories during the periods of seasonal unemployment, as this depends upon trade conditions. During the off season, some of these factories revert to alternative manufacturing processes, where some of the workers remain engaged, while others can seek fresh employment through the good offices of the Regional Employment Exchanges. Some of the skilled workers of such factories remain in employment or make some agreement for a retaining allowance on half pay during the close season, as in the case of Sugar Factories.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Will the hon. Minister please state whether any person has so far been able to get employment through the Employment Exchange ?

Minister : Many people are daily getting employment through the Employment Exchanges.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Will the hon. Minister please state the number of those who had got themselves registered with the Employment Exchanges, and who were able to get employment through them ?

Minister : Thousands of them have got employment through this agency.

COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN THE STATE

***117 Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of complaints of corruption against Government servants received by the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Government during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 1951-52 department-wise and salary-wise i.e. (i) below Rs. 100/- p. m. (ii) below Rs. 251/- p. m. (iii) below Rs. 501/- p. m. and above :

(Shri Dev Raj Sethi)

- (b) the number of Gazetted Officers against whom enquiries were instituted during the above-mentioned periods ;
- (c) the number of Gazetted Officers found guilty and the action taken by the Government in each case ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 1949-50	985
1950-51	489
1951-52	588

It is regretted that detailed information department-wise and salary-wise is not readily available, and the time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the use to which it may be brought.

(b) 1949-50	80
1950-51	68
1951-52	82

- (c) A statement is given below :—

**NUMBER OF GAZETTED OFFICERS FOUND GUILTY
AND THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN EACH CASE.**

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	
	13	9	21	
	—	—	—	
Services terminated	4	3	3	
Pension reduced	1	1	...	
Stoppage of increment	2	2	3	
Reverted	1	...	2	(One officer was also debarred from pro- motion for 2 years and in addition stoppage of his incre- ment for 2 years)
Retired compulsorily	1	...	2	
Warned	2	...	8	
Censured	2	2	...	
Made to refund certain amount drawn in excess on account of T.A.	...	1	...	
Made to proceed on leave preparatory to retirement.	...	...	1	
Degraded by one step in the time scale of his Pay.	...	...	1	
60% deduction from the allotment of land due to him on account of his having filed an exaggerat- ed claim.	...	...	1	

CRIME SITUATION IN VILLAGES JODHAN AND MANSURAN IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***180. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the crime situation for the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and upto date in villages Jodhan and Mansuran in Ludhiana district where punitive police is posted ;

(b) the population of the villages referred to in part (a) above which is affected by the punitive tax

(c) the amount charged or proposed to be charged annually from the people of these two villages on account of the punitive tax ;

(d) whether the Government now intend to remove this punitive police post in view of the present situation ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 7, 6, 5, 14 and 9 cases respectively.

(b) 3,278

(c) Rs. 15,130

(d) Yes, from 31-7-1952 A. N.

TRACTOR CULTIVATION SCHEME.

***178. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Tractor Cultivation Scheme which was started by the Government in the State worked successfully ; if not, the total loss sustained by the Government till the end of the last year together with the causes thereof ;

(b) the rates charged per acre from the land owners by the Government for ploughing the land ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) The Land Reclamation and Mechanical Cultivation Scheme is reported to have worked under loss. The Government have consequently appointed a Sub-Committee to go into the working of this scheme, determine the exact amount of loss and find out the exact causes for this loss. A report of the final findings of this Sub-Committee is still awaited.

(b) A statement showing the rates is given below :

[Minister for Development]

Rates in force from 1st October, 1950.

	Rs.	As
(i) Ploughing (Operation once) banjar land	35 — 0	per acre for 1st 100 acres
	33 — 8	per acre for next 150 „
	32 — 0	per acre for next 250 „
	30 — 8	per acre for next 500 „
	29 — 0	per acre for area above 1,000 acres.
(ii) Ploughing land under cultivation (Operation once)	18 — 0	per acre.
(iii) Discing (Operation once)	12 — 0	„ „
(iv) Cultivation (Operation once)	12 — 0	per acre.
(v) Sohaga (Operation once)	7 — 0	„ „
(vi) Disc Harrow (Operation once)	7 — 0	„ „
(vii) Seed Drill (Operation once)	7 — 0	„ „
(viii) Sohana if combined with another implement.	3 — 0	„ „
(ix) (a) Levelling and thrashing etc. by tractors with D. B. H. P. 40 and above.	15 — 0	per hour.
(x) (b) Levelling and thrashing etc. by tractors with D. B. H. P. 30 to 40.	11 — 4	„ „
(xi) (c) Levelling and thrashing etc. by tractors with D. B. H. P. below	7 — 8	„ „

SUPPLY OF SEEDS TO CULTIVATORS IN THE STATE

*179. **Sardar Ajmer Singh** : Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the rates at which seeds of wheat and gram etc. are supplied to the cultivators in the State by the Government are higher than the rates at which the same are purchased by the Government from the market ; if so, the rates of supply of such seeds during the last three years together with the profit made thereon by the Government;
- (b) the reasons for charging higher prices for seeds from the cultivators than is paid by Government for purchasing the same ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

- (a) The Scheme for the purchase, storage and distribution of food-grains is run on a 'No profit' 'No loss' basis and no separate account is maintained for the purchase, storage and distribution of seed wheat or seeds of gram or any other grain. The seeds of wheat and gram etc. are supplied to the cultivators in the State at the same rates at which issues of foodgrains are made for internal consumption etc. The difference between the purchase rate and the sale rate represents the actual incidental charges incurred on handling in the course of purchase, storage and distribution. The question of making any profit by the Government does not, therefore, arise. Government pays a premium on seed wheat purchases and yet it does not charge anything extra at the time of issue. The producers derive double benefit.

- (b) Does not arise.

— — — — —

STARTING OF A CEMENT FACTORY IN THE STATE.

* 115. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Large Scale Industries Sub-Committee in its report for the year 1950-51 recommended to the Government to start a Cement Factory in the State;
- (b) the decision, if any, taken by the Government in this connection together with the date thereof;
- (c) the steps so far taken by the Government to implement that decision;
- (d) when does the Government hope to get the Cement Factory working ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) Presumably the hon. Member refers to the report of the Industrial Development Board which was published in 1950. The Board did recommend the starting of a Cement Factory in the State.

[Minister for Finance]

(b) Government decided on the 20th August, 1951, not to implement this recommendation.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know the reasons for non-implementation of this scheme ?

Minister : One of the reasons is the lack of funds. Another is that the Public Works Department has got another scheme for cement factories with it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Lakhs of tons of cement are to be consumed by Bhakhra and Nangal projects and in the construction of the Capital at Chandigarh. In view of this does the Government not consider it necessary to set up a cement factory as soon as possible ?

Minister : We prepared our scheme and submitted it to the Government of India. But the Central Government is of the opinion that instead of putting such a scheme into practice it would be better to consult the Associated Cement Ltd. and make arrangements with them for the supply of cement to the Punjab.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will it not be more advantageous for us to have a factory in our State than to take our supplies from distant factories ?

Minister : It is a question which cannot be replied without taking all the factors into account.

STARTING OF A RESIN FACTORY IN THE STATE.

*116. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Large Scale Industries Sub Committee, in its report for the year 1950-51 recommended to the Government to start a Resin Factory in the State as at Jallo near Lahore ; if so, the steps so far taken by the Government to implement the decision ;
- (b) the obstacles in the way of setting up such a Resin factory ;
- (c) the total amount of money realised by the Government by auction sale of Resin every year during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1952 ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) Yes. Subsequently the matter was, however, considered by the Industrial Development Sub-Committee of the Cabinet on the 14th August, 1951 and the proposal was dropped as being financially unsound.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c) The reply is as under :-

Year	Amount in Rupees.
1947-48 (15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948)	3,67,015
1948-49	12,06,344
1949-50	10,29,741
1950-51	12,90,516
1951-52	19,65,294
Total ...	58,58,917

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The hon. Minister has referred to a Cabinet Sub-Committee in his reply. Was there any Cabinet Sub-Committee on 14th, August 1951?

Minister : I am sorry it was a Development Sub-Committee and not a Cabinet Sub-Committee.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know the grounds for not setting up such a factory ?

Minister : I have already stated that the Sub-Committee considered the scheme as financially unsound. That is why it was not under-taken.

— — — — —

**ALLOTMENT OF LAND, HOUSES OR SHOPS TO REFUGEES
IN THE STATE.**

***230. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of those refugee families in the State who have not been allotted any land, house or shop so far;
- (b) the number of those agriculturist refugee families the members of which have been allotted lands at different places and thus separated ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) All available land, houses and shops in the rural and urban areas have been allotted to displaced persons but the number of those displaced persons who have not received any allotment of land, houses or shops is not available.

(b) The number of such families is not available.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : When will it be possible to know the number of refugees who have not been allotted any houses or lands so far ?

Minister : It is difficult to say, but as I have already submitted all the available houses and lands have been allotted.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What steps does the Government propose to take to help those who have been allotted no houses or lands ?

Minister : Those refugees who submitted claims for allotment of land will get allotment chits within a month or two, if they have not already been allotted any land. As regards claims for houses, that question is being taken up separately.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I wanted to know if the Government intended to do anything for those refugees who have not been allotted any houses so far.

Minister : All the available houses have already been allotted. There is not a single refugee in the camp in the Punjab. Every displaced person has got either a mud hut or a house.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Minister aware that a large number of persons in Jullundur have been allotted no houses ? They are putting up with their friends or relatives ?

Minister : That may be true but there is no displaced person without suitable shelter.

Ranjit Singh Captain : Am I to understand that the work of the Government in this connection is over and that no more allotments have to be made ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

LEVY OF TAX ON TEACHERS BY THE DISTRICT
BOARD, FEROZEPUR.

***229 Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Local

Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the teacher

employed by the District Board, Ferozepore, have been levied a tax of Rs. 4 per head ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. A tax of Rs. 4 per head has been levied on the teachers, with a view to raise the revenues of the said District Board.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : May I know the reason for the levy of this tax ?

Minister : In order to raise revenues the District Boards levy taxes on different professions. So this tax of Rs. 4 per head has been levied on the teachers.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Was such a tax levied before the Congress Government came into power ?

Minister : Yes. A profession tax existed long before the Congress party came into power.

D. A. V. HIGH SCHOOL, REHAN.

***130. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the previous Chief Minister after visiting the D. A. V. High School, Rehan, advised the District Board to take over this School ?

(b) whether it is a fact that on its refusal, the District Board was offered 100% aid if it took over the D. A. V. High School, Rehan ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that subsequent to the above offer, the District Board passed resolution agreeing to take the D. A. V. High School Rehan ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Government gave an assurance to meet the full deficit, on account of the recurring expenditure of the school, subject to the maximum limit of Rs. 6,000 p. a.

(c) Yes, on the condition of payment of cent per cent grant on the recurring expenditure.

**SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN NURPUR AND
HAMIRPUR TEHSILS OF DISTRICT KANGRA.**

***131. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is scarcity of drinking water in very large areas of Nurpur and Hamirpur Tehsils of District Kangra ;
- (b) whether Government intends taking steps to have these tehsils surveyed in order to formulate plans for the supply of sufficient and healthy drinking water to the inhabitants of those illaqa ?

Shri Jagat Narain: (a) Yes, and the Punjab Government, through the Sanitary Board has financed the following water supply schemes in the said Tehsils :—

Name of Tehsil	Amount.	Year in which the grant was given.
Nurpur Tehsil	Rs.	
(i) Water supply scheme of villages Bhaleta and Kathal.	3,715/-/-	1948-49.
(ii) Nurpur water supply scheme.	29,749/6/-	1950-51.
	40,582/10/-	1951-52.
Total :	70,332/-/-	

Expenditure of Rs. 70,332/- as indicated above represents the first part of water-supply scheme of Nurpur town and necessary estimate of second instalment of Rs. 1,12,696/- has been forwarded to the Notified Area Committee, Nurpur. Work will be taken in hand as soon as it is sanctioned and it is possible to allot funds.

(iii) Construction of a well in village Larhun (Tehsil Nurpur).	5,397/-	1951-52.
(iv) Construction of a well in village Gheta (Tehsil Nurpur).	4,167/-	1951-52.

Hamirpur Tehsil.

(i) Construction of a pucca well in Chamar locality at Sujampur Tira.	4,780/-	1951-52.
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(ii) Construction of a well in village
Kanjian.

2,518/- 1951-52.

(b) While any further schemes for the provision of an adequate and safe drinking water to the inhabitants of the illaqs in question which may be received by the Sanitary Board for financial assistance from the District Board, Kangra, will be duly considered by the said Board, the question of carrying out survey work by the P.W.D., Public Health Circle, for the collection of data for the preparation of estimates for water-supply arrangements for the scarcity areas can be considered by the Sanitary Board and by Government on receipt of the District Board's recommendations.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade: Sir, may I request that I may be permitted to ask supplementaries tomorrow as the statement in question has not been supplied to me?

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection to the postponement of the supplementaries to this question tomorrow.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGES AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

*157 **Chaudhri Maru Singh Malik:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Government Colleges and High Schools, district-wise in the State at present;
- (b) the number out of these started after the partition;
- (c) the number of aided schools and colleges in each district;
- (d) the number of those brought on the aided list after 1947?

Shri Jagat Narain:—

Name of District	No. of Govt. Colleges	No. of Govt. High Schools
(a) Kangra	1	3
Gurdaspur	—	4
Amritsar	—	3
Jullundur	1	4
Hoshiarpur	1	7
Ludhiana	2	5
Ferozepore	1	6
Ambala	2	10
Karnal	—	5
Rohtak	1	5
Gurgaon	—	8
Hissar	1	4

[Minister for Education]

(b) 5 Colleges and 5 High Schools.

	No. of aided Colleges	No. of aided Schools
(c) Ambala	—	15
Karnal	—	4
Rohtak	—	7
Gurgaon	—	2
Hissar	—	2
Kangra	—	10
Gurdaspur	—	12
Amritsar	2	19
Jullundur	—	15
Hoshiarpur	—	15
Ludhiana	—	7
Ferozepore	1	19

(d) Nil.

Shri Banarsi Das Gupta : Does the Government propose to open a college in District Karnal which is one of the most backward districts in the Punjab ?

Minister : It depends upon the availability of funds.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REFUGEE AND LOCAL TENANTS IN FEROZEPUR DISTRICT.

66. Sardar Nidhan Singh : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- the number of refugee and local tenants respectively in Ferozepur district;
- whether the Government is aware of the fact that the land owners are ejecting their tenants by bringing their lands under tractor cultivation; if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the tenants;
- the number of tenants ejected in Ferozepur district in April, 1952.

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon:

(a) The information is not available.

(b) First Part. No.

Second Part. An Ordinance has already been promulgated whereby all tenants ejected between 1st May, 1952 to 15th June, 1952 can be restored.

(c) None.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWERS

CONSTRUCTION OF A MATERNITY HOSPITAL FOR PATTOKI AND HIRA SINGH WALA VILLAGES.

67. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some land and an amount of rupees twenty five thousand was contributed by the villages Pattoke and Hira Singh Wala, Police Station Nihal Singh Wala, District Ferozepur, for the construction of a Maternity Hospital; if so, the time likely to be taken for the construction of the said hospital.

Shri Jagat Narain : Yes. The question of recovery from the Punjab (Pakistan) of the sum of Rs. 25,000 (donated by S.B. Captain Hira Singh and the residents of Patto Hira Singh and surrounding villages), which was credited in the Joint Punjab accounts, is under consideration of the Punjab Partition Committee. As soon as a decision is reached in the matter, necessary steps will be taken by the State Government for the opening of the proposed Maternity Hospital in village Patto Hira Singh, in the Ferozepore District.

DAMAGE TO VILLAGES KOKRI HIRAN ETC. BY HAILSTORMS

68. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to relieve the distress caused to the cultivators by the hailstorm on February 2, 1952 in villages Kokri, Hiran, Chugadanwari, Kapure Bugi Pura, Dala of police station Mehta, Tehsil Moga, District Ferozepore ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The information is that no damage was caused to Rabi crop in villages in question due to hailstorm on 2nd February, 1952.

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT BHUCHO MANDI

69. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a punitive police post has been stationed since October, 1951 in Bhucho Mandi and the expenditure incurred thereon is being levied on the inhabitants of Chak Fetez Singh, Chak Ram Singh, Chak Bakhtu, Kahan Singh Wala, Tungwali, Bega and Bhucho Kaion together with the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, since November, 1950 not October, 1951. The expenditure incurred thereon for the period from 1st November, 1950 to 31st October, 1951 is being levied on the inhabitants of Chak Fateh Singh Wala, Chak Ram Singh Wala, Chak Bakhtu, Chak Kahan Singh Wala, Tungwali, Lehra Begha and Bhucho Kalan and for the period from 1st November, 1951 to 31st October, 1952 on the inhabitants of Chak Fateh Singh Wala, Chak Ram Singh Wala, Chak Kahan Singh Wala, Tungwali, Lehra Begha, Bhucho Kalan, Bhucho Mandi and Lehra Muhabbat. The reason for this levy is that the Post has been located as a punitive measure on account of the disturbed condition of the villages and conduct of their inhabitants.

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGES CHUHAR
CHAK AND DHUDI KE.

70 Sardar Nidhan Singh : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether he is aware of the fact that punitive police was posted during the years 1939 to 15th August, 1947 at village Chuhar Chak and Dhudike, Police Station Mehta, Tehsil Moga, District Ferozepur on account of the nationalistic sympathies of the people belonging to these villages;
- (b) Whether it is also a fact that a sum of Rs. 1,04,000/- was realized in the form of punitive tax from the residents of the villages mentioned in the part (a) above;
- (c) Whether the Government propose to return the above mentioned amount to the persons from whom it was realized, if not, the reasons thereof.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) I am aware of the fact that punitive police was posted during the years 1939 to 15th August, 1947 at villages Chuhar Chak and Dhudike. It was posted not on account of the 'nationalistic sympathies' of the people but on account of the disturbed condition of these villages and the conduct of their inhabitants.
- (b) A sum of Rs. 1,03,888 was realised.
- (c) No, the additional police was posted at the cost of the inhabitants for the reasons given in part (a) above, and those reasons do not justify refund of the money.

ABOLITION OF ZAMINDARA SYSTEM IN THE STATE.

71. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the time likely to be taken by the Government to abolish the "Zamindara" system in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The rights of landlords in occupancy tenures and of taluqdars and Ala-maliks in lands held by adna-maliks have extinguished. Besides this security for a period of 5 years to tenants of land owners owning more than 50 standard acres or 100 ordinary acres has also been provided for.

In addition the amendment of the present tenancy legislation is under consideration.

TOURS BY MINISTERS IN THE STATE

72. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the the number of tours undertaken by the Ministers in each District during the month of May 1952, together with the time spent and work done in the course of each tour ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I regret the reply is not yet ready. It will be made available to the hon. Member in due course.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF PEONS AND ORDERLIES IN ALL THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN THE STATE.

73. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of peons and orderlies in all the State Government Offices; together with their grades of pay ; and the amounts of dearness allowance paid to them ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : As the time and expenditure to be spent in collecting the information asked for will be too great, it will not be commensurate with the advantage to accrue from it.

HAND SPUN AND HAND WOVEN CLOTH PREPARED BY SPINNING AND WEAVING DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE.

74. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the quantity (in yards) of hand-spun and hand-woven cloth which is prepared by the Spinning and Weaving Department in the State every year ;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on the production of this cloth every year ;
- (c) the number of labourers who get their wages together with the amount of wages they get out of this expenditure every year ;
- (d) the quantity (in yards) out of this cloth which is consumed by the Government, sold in the State and exported to places outside the State respectively ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) Name of the year	Quantity of cloth produced.
1948-49	1,77,614 yards.
1949-50	8,19,373 yards.
1950-51	3,10,502 yards.
1951-52	2,15,615 yards.
(b) Name of the year	Expenditure.
1948-49	*Rs. 3,88,601/- (*including cost of
1949-50	Rs. 8,69,908/- raw material).
1950-51	Rs. 1,09,970/-
1951-52 (for four months only).	Rs. 38,941/-

In addition to the above there is a Personal Ledger Account of Rs- 4,50,000/-/- in the name of the Controller, Government Cotton Spinning & Weaving Centre, Jullundur. Closing balance in respect of this Account on 31st March, 1952 was Rs, 12,54,141/-/-

(c) Name of the year	No. of labourers		Wages paid	
	Spinners	Weaver	Spinning wages	Weaving wages,
1948-49	9,310	640	Rs. 57,879/-/-	Rs. 33,960/-/-
1949-50	8,650	1,283	Rs. 1,70,747/-/-	Rs. 1,77,749/-/-
1950-51	7,000	1,300	Rs. 68,961/-/-	Rs. 87,542/-/-
1951-52	4,624	738	Rs. 38,804/-/-	Rs. 56,872/-/-

In addition to the above the following washing and carding wages were paid :—

Name of the year	Washing wages	Carding wages.
1948-49	Rs. 5,483/-	Rs. 8,913/-
1949-50	Rs. 46,474/-	Rs. 21,755/-
1950-51	Rs. 44,272/-	Rs. 5,864/-
1951-52	Rs. 27,850/-	Rs. 3,750/-

(d)	Approximate yards	Value
1. Cloth consumed by the departments of the State Government.	2,37,103	2,71,588/-
2. Cloth sold in the State through Sale Agents.	4,03,254	4,61,102/-

3. Exported to places outside the State:-	Approximate yard	Value
(i) Central Government	1,31,200	Rs. 1,49,763/-
(ii) Other places.	5,80,102	Rs. 6,61,377/-

BASIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE

75. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Government and private Schools imparting basic education, in the state at present ;
- (b) the number of such teachers as have so far been trained by the Government for imparting basic education in the state ;
- (c) the number of those students who are receiving basic education throughout the State at present ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) 54
- (b) 871
- (c) 4,412

PROMOTING THE GROWTH OF HINDI AND PUNJABI IN THE STATE.

76. Shri Teg Ram : Will the minister for Education be pleased to state the amount of yearly expenditure being incurred by the Government for promoting the growth of the official language i. e. Hindi and Punjabi in the State.

Shri Jagat Narain : It is regretted that the information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

TENANTS WHO HAVE MIGRATED FROM PAKISTAN

77. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the landless tenants who migrated from Pakistan ;
- (b) whether the Government are in possession of figures relating to the number of such tenants who migrated from Pakistan and who have been given lands for cultivating purposes in the state together with the number of those who have so far not been given any land ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) 47,000 families approximately ;

(b) The exact figures are not available, but efforts have been made to absorb all the displaced tenants in the economy of the State in the following manner :—

(i) as tenants of big and absentee allottees and local landlords ;

(ii) as lessess of :—

(a) evacuee land of which possession has not been taken by the allottees ;

(b) land belonging to local residents but undermortgage with possession with evacuees ; and

(c) land belonging to Muslim Religious Institutions.

UTILISATION OF MUSLIM EVACUEE LAND LYING RESERVED
WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

78. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the area of land, left by Muslims, which was lying reserved with the Government on the 31st of May, 1952, in the State and the manner in which Government is going to utilise this land ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Figures for 31st May, 1952 are not readily available.

However, an area of 66,673 acres of evacuee land was originally reserved for restoration to the Muslims in the Districts of Gurgaon and Ambala. Of this an area of 50,116 acres and 16,179 acres has since been restored to Muslims in Gurgaon and Ambala districts respectively. The balance of 378 acres will be utilised towards meeting the unsatisfied claims of displaced land-owners.

Another area of 28,544 acres of evacuee land was reserved for various development schemes for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons and other schemes sponsored by Government Departments. This area was placed at the disposal of the Government Departments on the clear stipulation that they will have to eventually acquire these lands against the payment of fair compensation in terms of Section 23 of the Land Acquisition Act I of 1894. Pending acquisition of the land rent is being charged at the rates which are fixed for displaced persons. If any area is left over, it will be utilised towards meeting the unsatisfied claims of the displaced land-owners.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I move —

That Rule 23 of the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 26th June, 1952.

I do not want that official business should be transacted on days reserved for non-official business ; but it has become necessary for me to move this motion because in deference to the wishes of the hon. Members no meeting was held on the 23rd June. The 21st and 22nd of June were off-days under the rules and because '1D' happened to fall on the 24th, it was decided that there be no meeting on the 24th June as well so that the hon. Members might go to their constituencies, if they so desired. I have not brought this motion to deprive the hon. Members of their right of transacting non-official business. On the other hand if they desire I shall be prepared to allot some other day for that business.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That Rule 23 of the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 26th June, 1952.

Sardar Gopal Singh : (Jagraon) (*Punjabi*) ; Sir, I cannot support the motion moved by the hon. Chief Minister because when I supported the motion for transacting Government business on the 17th June, I did so on the definite understanding that 26th June would be available for non-official business. It would be high-handedness on the part of the Government to deprive us of another non-official day. The hon. Chief Minister should not have moved this motion without fixing another day for private member's business.

Chief Minister : I have already stated that if the hon. Members so desire, I shall allot another day for non-official business.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir, already one non-official day has been appropriated by the Government for its own business. I doubt if it would honour the promise being given today since a similar promise made a short while ago yet remains to be honoured.

Chief Minister : I may assure the Leader of the Opposition that I am prepared to allot any day he suggests for this purpose.

Shri Sri Chand : Will the ballot that was held to determine the order of precedence of resolutions to be taken up on Thursday, the 26th June, remain valid for the next non-official day ?

Mr. Speaker : No, under the rules a new ballot will have to be held. The hon. Members should enter their names in the numbered lists afresh.

Mr. Speaker : Question is

That Rule 23 of the Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 26th June, 1952.

The motion was carried

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon the Chief Minister to move Demand No. 10.

Chief Minister : Sir I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,14,770 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in course of payment for the year 1952-53 in respect of General Administration.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1 59,14,770 be granted to the Government to defray the charges that have or will come in course of payment for the year 1952-53 in respect of General Administration.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members ! I have received about 100 notices of cut motions on the demand moved now. There are two alternatives before you. One, that, all the cut motions may be deemed to have been moved and the field kept open for debate whether in favour of or against the motion. The other alternative is to allow one or two cut motions which are of a comprehensive nature to be moved and then allow discussion. I would like to know which of these two alternatives the hon. Members would prefer.

Members of the Opposition Benches : The first alternative would be all right.

Mr. Speaker : The following cut motions are deemed to have been moved. These will be discussed along with the main motion.

1. Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma
2. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma

That the item of Rs. 2,07,370 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

3. Sardar Achhar Singh
4. Sardar Bachan Singh :
5. Sardar Chanan Singh :
6. Sardar Darshan Singh :
7. Sardar Nidhan Singh :
8. Shri Wadhawa Ram

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000.

9. Sardar Achhar Singh
10. Sardar Bachan Singh :
11. Sardar Chanan Singh :
12. Sardar Darshan Singh :
13. Sardar Nidhan Singh :
14. Shri Wadhawa Ram :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100:

15. Sardar Achhar Singh :
16. Sardar Bachan Singh :
17. Sardar Chanan Singh :
18. Sardar Darshan Singh :
19. Sardar Nidhan Singh :
20. Shri Wadhawa Ram :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

21. Sardar Achhar Singh ;
22. Sardar Chanan Singh :
23. Sardar Darshan Singh :
24. Sardar Nidhan Singh
25. Shri Wadhawa Ram

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

26. Sardar Chanan Singh :
27. Shri Wadhawa Ram :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Mr. Speaker]

28. Sardar Achhar Singh :

29. Sardar Darshan Singh :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

30. Sardar Achhar Singh :

31. Sardar Chanan Singh :

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32. Sardar Chanan Singh :

33. Shri Wadhawa Ram :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

34. Sardar Achhar Singh :

35. Sardar Chanan Singh :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States - h - Ministers - Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

36. Sardar Achhar Singh :

37. Shri Wadhawa Ram :

That the item of Rs. 2,67,780 on account of E-Commissioner be omitted.

38. Sardar Achhar Singh :

39. Sardar Bachan Singh :

40. Sardar Chanan Singh :

41. Sardar Darshan Singh :

42. Sardar Nidhan Singh :

43. Shri Wadhawa Ram :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 60,00,000.

44. Shri Jagdish Chandra :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 59,14,770.

45. Sardar Gurbanta Singh :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

46. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

47. Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

48. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma :

49. Shri Sri Chand :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

50. Shri Rala Ram :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

51. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

52. Shri Samar Singh :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

53. Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

54. Shri Chandi Ram Verma :

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| 55. Rai Hari Chand : | That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1. |
| 56. Shri Maru Singh Malik : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 57. Shri Mool Chand Jain : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 58. Shrimati Sita Devi : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 59. Principal Harbhajan Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 60. Shri Ram Kishan : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 61. Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 62. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 63. Shri Sarup Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1. |
| 64. Shri Sher Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 65. Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat : | That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1. |
| 66. Shri Rajjit Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 67. Shri Nand Lal | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 68. Shri Teg Ram : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 69. Sardar Waryam Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 70. Shri Babu Dayal ; | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 71. Shri Balwant Rai : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 72. Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 73. Shri Lajpat Rai : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 74. Rao Gaj Raj Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 75. Shri Jagat Ram : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 76. Shri Rizaq Ram ; | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 77. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 78. Shri Badlu Ram : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 79. Bakshi Partap Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 80. Shri Ram Sarup : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 81. Shri Gorakh Nath : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |

[Mr. Speaker]

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| 82. Shri Teg Ram : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 83. Shrimati Sita Devi : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 84. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 85. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 86. Shri Mehar Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 87. Shri Ram Chandra : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 88. Sardar Waryam Singh
(Amritsar) : | That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1. |
| 89. Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 90. Rai Raghuvir Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 91. Sardar Hari Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 92. Shri Lal Chand Prarthi : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 93. Shrimati Shanno Devi : | That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1. |
| 94. Shri Khushi Ram Gupta : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 95. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 96. Sardar Ajmer Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 97. Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 98. Sardar Shamsher Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 99. Sardar Iqbal Singh : | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100. |
| 100. Shri Ram Parkash : | That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1. |

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi) : Sir, the case for getting so much money i. e. Rs. 1,59,14,770 out of the total budget of 17½ crores, voted for General Administration is obviously weak. Allocation of such a large sum for this purpose is not in the best interests of our State especially when we have been presented with a deficit budget and the debt liability of this State is of the order of Rs. 25 crores. Under this demand, besides the money earmarked for Ministers, we find a sum of Rs. 47,500 provided for Deputy Ministers, Rs. 30,780 for Parliamentary Secretaries, Rs. 7,130 for Chief Whip, Rs. 8,550 for Private Parliamentary Secretaries, Rs 13,000. on account of the

Travelling Allowances, Rs. 2,34,500 to meet the cost of the cars for the Ministers, Rs. 38,620 for oil and lubricants for their cars and so on. In this way, Sir, a total amount of Rs. 5,67,420 has been provided for Ministers, Deputy Ministers etc. It is surely not for the good of this State that such a top heavy administration is being maintained.

All this money earmarked for Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries is being demanded because the party in power wants to provide for some of its members, otherwise I don't find any propriety or justification for creating these posts when the Secretaries and Heads of Departments are there to assist the Ministers in their work.

Then, we see that despite the huge strength of the Police with its diverse branches such as P. A. P., C. I. A., C. I. D., Special Inquiry Agency and so on, crimes, namely, murders, dacoities, thefts etc. are on the increase. Sir, on an average, two murders are committed in this State every day. As compared with the days of the British rule, law and order position in this State has deteriorated considerably. This means that there does exist some defect in our administrative machinery.

In fact, Sir, peace and tranquillity are closely linked with the efficiency of administration. When efficiency deteriorates, peace becomes precarious.

The chief cause of decline in efficiency is, to my mind, the lack of proper spirit in the services. Work is today looked upon by the officials as 'begar'. They don't appear to realise that service of one's country is its own reward. They seem to be concerned only with their salaries. No incentive for work is left in them. It is wrong to say that special pays and allowances serve the purpose of an incentive for doing more work.

In the present administrative set-up, allowances are given to the Government servants in order to please them instead of getting more work from them. I would suggest that the test of promotion for any officer should be efficiency, honesty and willingness to do hard work. Efficiency should be regarded as the main criterion for promotion so that others should also emulate the efficient officers and be not under the impression that the Government is being run on stereotyped lines. A feeling is growing among officers that under the present regime good and indifferent officers are being treated alike and merit and efficiency do not find any special recognition. I would suggest that no distinction should be made between the members of the majority commu-

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

nity and those of the minority community. It is often observed that no confidence is reposed in the members of the minority community. I would not blame all officers but it should be considered as a sin to keep out from responsible posts members of a particular minority community. This tendency must be discouraged. I would assure you, Sir, on behalf of all the voters whom I represent that we are loyal citizens of the country. We will continue to make sacrifices for the good of the country. The minority community should be made to feel that no injustice would be done to them merely because of their belonging to a particular community. But what I find today is that an attempt is made to misrepresent and vilify us.

There are mainly two communities in the Punjab and our State can only make progress if both of them gain confidence of each other. The right course is that the majority community should show largeheartedness towards the minority community and try to remove all their misgivings. But when we raise our voice against the injustice done to us our mouths are gagged and we are asked not to talk of any thing on the floor of this House which savours of communalism. We may perforce remain silent but the Government should correctly appreciate our difficulties and take steps to remove our grievances. If this is done, this State will become the pride of India. I would ask the hon. Members occupying the Treasury Benches that they should not try to stifle our voice but should try to create cordial and friendly relations between the two communities. I feel that our fears are legitimate. Sometime back when His Excellency the Governor's address was discussed, we rightly pleaded that all the low castes among the Sikhs should be given the privileges enjoyed by the Harijans. The Government will be well advised to press upon the Government of India to accede to this legitimate demand.

In this connection, I would like to read a certified copy of the order of Mr. President in which only four such castes have been given special privileges.

Notification No. SRO.385 issued by the Ministry of Law on the 10th August, 1950.

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER, 1950.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 341 of the Constitution of India, the President, after consultation with the Governors and Rajpramukhs of the States concerned is pleased to make the following order, namely:—

1. This order may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,
2. Subject to the provision of this Order, the castes, races or tribes, or parts of, or groups within castes or tribes, specified in Parts I to XVI of the Schedule to this Order.

shall in relation to the States to which those parts respectively relate, be deemed to be Scheduled Castes so far as regards members thereof resident in the localities specified in relation to them in those parts of that Schedule.

Sir, I would request the Chief Minister to pay due attention to this particular clause, as I see he is busy discussing certain matters with one of his colleagues.

Notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph 2, no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

Provided that every member of the Ramdasi, Kabirpanthi, Mazhabi or Sikligar caste resident in Punjab or the Patiala and East Punjab States Union shall, in relation to that State, be deemed to be a member of the Scheduled Castes whether he professes the Hindu religion or the Sikh religion.

4. Any reference in the Schedule to this order to a district or other territorial division of a State shall be construed as a reference to that district or other territorial division as existing on the 26th January, 1950.

Sardar Rajinder Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. * Member is not speaking on the General Administration.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, this concerns our State and also the General Administration. The Chief Minister a short while ago referred in his speech on the floor of this House to the satisfaction expressed by certain Sikh leaders. In this connection, I may submit that at that time the Government had accepted the principle that there will be no discrimination between the Hindus and the Sikh Harijans. The above change limiting the privileges to four classes of Sikh Scheduled Castes was made later. I ask, is it not injustice that out of the two brothers of whom one is a Sikh and the other a Hindu, the former should be denied the privileges enjoyed by the latter? Is this the secular State about which tall claims are made by the Government? Such acts of omission and commission are causing discontent among certain sections of the people but in spite of this for patriotic reasons we do not yet like to launch any active agitation against the Government. But this should not be misunderstood.

It is said that it is our own Government but if it were so it should have readily accepted our demand. In the light of these facts, can we say that the administration of the Government is being carried on satisfactorily? Well, Sir, both the public and the public servants are concerned with the administration. Whatever religion the public servants may belong to, if they are properly treated there would be no cause of dissatisfaction among them.

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

Sir, I may be permitted to state that the misunderstandings that were created about us were the result of manoeuvrings of interested parties in order to gain their own end. I can boldly say, Sir, that by doing so they have won the recent general elections, otherwise Congress was not so popular among the masses of the country. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member to please leave this topic as it is not relevant.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, the next thing that I would like to state is about the Criminal Tribes. A sum of the order of Rs. two lakhs has been earmarked to be spent on this Department. In this connection, I may say, Sir, that we are no longer under foreign domination and the Britishers who used to call some of our people as belonging to 'Criminal Tribes' have left. My contention is that no man can be given the name of a criminal on the mere pretext that he happens to be the son of a father who was a criminal at one time. Nobody on earth starts committing crimes from his very birth. The Government has got a large strength of Police at its disposal; Cannot they distinguish between a criminal and a non-criminal? The very existence of this department is an opprobrium and a blot on the name of our State. Moreover, the Government is spending large sums of money on the salaries of big officers of this Department and their staff and I can safely say that this is sheer extravagance.

Mr. Speaker : May I know how much more time is required by the hon. Member?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, I may be given at least 10 minutes more. Then Sir, our Chief Minister is in the know of the fact that the efficient running of administration demands honest public servants and a feeling of patriotism among the masses. Government should develop this sense among the masses that if they commit a crime they will harm their country and further that they will be severely dealt with. My hon. Friends sitting on the Treasury Benches are residing at Simla and, as such, are not aware of the fact that nobody in the plains dare go out of his house in the evening out of fear of the *goondas*. At places where nobody is in possession of an arms licence the danger is still worse. They can well imagine the state of affairs from the fact that in a case of dacoity that occurred in village Burj in my district all the villagers were stripped of their belongings. If the state of law and order continues to remain such, I am afraid the hold of the

Government over the administration, if it is not lost at all, will certainly go loose. True the Government cannot employ such a large army of policemen as to establish a police post in every village. But what it can easily do is to make its machinery so efficient that every criminal is traced, apprehended and brought to book. This will serve as a warning to others.

Now, Sir, when the Government is our own, it should do all that lies in its power to make the administration efficient. My hon. Friends occupying the Treasury Benches should not think that by simply ascending the throne left by the Britishers they would be able to carry on the administration successfully and efficiently. I may sound a note of warning to them that if the state of affairs deteriorates still further they will not be able to retain the prestige of the Government. They should not close their eyes like a pigeon at the sight of a cat. The Government is spending colossal amounts on the maintenance of an army of Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries. This is all a waste of money and a stop should be put to it.

Villagers feel that the people sitting at Simla never think of ameliorating their lot. The Government may continue its headquarters at Simla if it likes but the Ministers must spend at least 9 months in a year in the plains in order to acquaint themselves with the real state of affairs prevailing in villages. Simla being a far off place, they cannot have first hand information. I may state for their information that sometimes accused are murdered even in the compounds of courts immediately after their acquittals. People are murdered in the heart of the city in broad day light. These are ominous signs.

The Government should dispense with all the allowances hitherto admissible to public servants and if an officer discharges his duties honestly and efficiently he should be allowed to supersede his incompetent colleagues. This will make the public servants work more enthusiastically and the administration will improve. Then, Sir, during the British regime, the administration was deliberately kept top heavy because by giving fat salaries to the European Officers the British Government wanted to keep them aloof from the general public. It was also essential for that Government to give high salaries to the Indian Officers in order to pollute their conscience. But now, Sir, when as a result of the partition we have been deprived of our Capital, Colleges and Schools we have to construct them all afresh, We shall buy more attention to the beneficent departments rather than spend huge amounts on police and the home defence departments.

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

British Government wanted to keep them aloof from the general public. It was also essential for that Government to give high salaries to the Indian Officers in order to pollute their conscience. But now, Sir, when as a result of the partition we have been deprived of our Capital, Colleges and Schools we have to construct them all afresh. We should pay more attention to the beneficent departments rather than spend huge amounts on police and the home defence departments.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra (Ludhiana City, North) (Hindi) Sir, our Punjab is only a smaller part of the United Punjab. Before the partition, the expenditure of this part of the Punjab used to be about Rs. 8 crores. Now this has been raised to Rs. 17 crores. This is because our Government has to spend a lot on its administration. It has to bear independently the expenses of a Governor and also of so many other big officers. All types of expenditure has to be met by this small State. We can reduce this expenditure on the administration, only if our hon. Ministers are willing to do so. We must find out means of bringing about a reduction in the expenditure on administration, if we want that our State should prosper, our administration should become very efficient and the trade in our State should flourish. It is very necessary, Sir, that our administration should be honest and efficient. Its tone has to be improved. So far as the question of honesty is concerned, our present Chief Minister had done 2 or 3 notable things when he had previously held this post. He had ordered an enquiry into the Iron & Steel Scandal. He paid surprise visits to district courts, checked the working of some offices and did so many other similar things. This had a healthy effect on the public as well as the administration. By doing these things, he was able to earn the appreciation and gratitude of the public.

I hereby give certain suggestions to bring about improvements in the administration if at all our Government is keen on the matter.

It has been often seen that the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker are able to do irregular things with each other's cooperation and it is difficult to catch such cases. But when any such culprits are caught, generally the Heads of Departments try to hush up the cases in order to save the reputation of their departments. The higher officers generally try to shield their subordinates. The Government should take very strict action against the officers who are responsible for hushing up such cases. The action which is generally taken against a corrupt official is that he is removed from service but the money which he had illegally earned is not recovered from him. I, therefore, suggest to the Government to recover from such officials, all the money that they had improperly taken. Further, it should prosecute

such officials and try them in courts of law. It should constitute a special tribunal for enquiring into allegations of a serious nature against corrupt officials, instead of being content with departmental enquiries.

The Government should fix a limit on the monthly savings of Government officials. It is generally seen that certain corrupt officers open accounts in the names of their wives and children and deposit the ill-earned money in their names. They invest a lot of money in landed property, in the purchase of cars and so many other things. They, generally spend large amounts on the marriages of their children, but there is no body to ask them as to where they have been able to get all this wealth from. Surely, they cannot save so much from their salaries. The Government should set up a machinery to look into the personal accounts of officials of doubtful integrity and also the accounts of their close relations. The Government should take strict action against those officers who happen to have a bad reputation. The true picture of the reputation of an officer can be obtained from the people of that area or the M. L. A. of that constituency, where the said officer is posted. Sir, this is my firm belief that if this is done the administration is bound to become honest.

In order to improve efficiency in the administration, the Government should inculcate the spirit of self sacrifice and hard work in the services. They should be made to feel that they have to work honestly for it is in the interest^s of the country and that they are no longer mercenaries of a foreign Government.

Then, Sir, it has been seen that when a relative or a friend of some magistrate comes to his court during the court time, he leaves his work and attends to him. The people who may have come to attend his court have to wait for long hours and his subordinates have to work till late in the night to finish up their daily quota of work. Then, Sir, it is claimed by these officers that they are over worked and have to sit late in the nights. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Ministers to keep a check on their working. In case, our Government take these steps the efficiency of our officers is bound to improve. If we are able to do this, the crime in the State is also bound to decrease.

Today, we find, Sir, that most of the people in rural areas, distil and drink liquor. By doing so, they are bound to indulge in criminal acts. Moreover, the Government is also losing its income. Sir, if we want to live with self-respect, we will have to check these malpractices with a strong hand.

[Dewan Jagdish Chandra]

Now, Sir, I would request the hon. Ministers to take steps to improve conditions in the villages so that the people may be tempted to live there. They should arrange to connect the villages with the urban areas by good roads. They should open hospitals and schools. If this is done, there can be no reason why people should not prefer to go to villages and settle there,

Sir, today the doctors are afraid of going to the villages. There they do not feel secure. I would request the Government to pay attention towards these things. Efforts should be made to effect economy in the expenditure on General Administration and to increase efficiency and honesty among the Officers.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (Punjabi): Sir, in the budget for the year 1952-53 we notice an item of expenditure on Bhakra Dam. The way in which this important project is being worked and the manner in which our Government is treating it show that the promises held out to the people in this connection will not be fulfilled. In 1947, the work stopped due to the partition. It was started in 1948. This Scheme will in all involve an expenditure of about 137 crores. The original estimate has now been increased. This is because the manner in which the work is being done is unsatisfactory. There appears to be no plan before those who are entrusted with the execution of this scheme. They have no programme chalked out with accuracy. The estimates for 1950 were exceeded. A Control Board was established consisting of representatives of the Punjab, Pepsu, Rajasthan and the Centre to supervise the work. But no Engineer was taken on it, with the result that it lacked expert opinion. Public funds were wasted unnecessarily simply because the Board could not arrive at quick decisions. The absence of Engineers was felt badly and so later on an Advisory Board was set up in which Engineers were included. Now, a new problem cropped up. The Control Board and the Advisory Board could not dispose of business quickly because of disagreement on matters before them. This resulted in still more delay in the actual execution of the project. This is not my opinion. It is the opinion of the Estimates Committee appointed in the year 1950. I cannot understand what the advantage is of having the Governor as the President of the Board in his individual capacity.

As regards the time-table of this project, it has been stated that if all went well and the money as estimated continued to be received the project will be completed by 1958-59. If there is any obstacle the work might continue for another three or four years. This is an intolerable state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker : You should discuss these matters when Irrigation is under consideration.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Sir, I have moved the cut motion and you have accepted it. So I would like to speak on Bhakra Dam only.

Mr. Speaker : You have said enough about this subject. If you wish to speak on General Administration you may do so. But these matters will be discussed when Irrigation is under discussion.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (Punjabi) : Sir, I beg to submit that our Government is not doing what it should do for the rural population. There is a marked difference between the treatment meted out to the rural people and the urban people. The life, property and honour of the people living in rural areas are not safe. In the cities, the police is there to protect them. I know of a theft which took place in Basti Guzan in Jullundur city. In a few minutes the Deputy Commissioner, the S. P. and other high officers reached the spot to investigate. But in the villages even murders take place and no one reaches in time to investigate immediately. The Government should pay its attention to this matter and try to put an end to such a state of affairs. So far as the Police is concerned, I wish to draw the attention of our Government to its excesses. Many poor people are put behind the bars under section 109 every day. The police officers are not working honestly. Of course, I admit that our Ministry came into power only about two or three months back and they have not been able to implement their policy effectively due to shortage of time. But still I consider it my duty to place before them the conditions prevailing in our rural areas. In villages the poor people are not treated properly by the police officers. Other departments also are not working for the benefit of the poor. I remember, some time back, a poor Government employee had his finger fractured while working in a factory. He was taken by his friend to a nearby hospital and admitted to it. He remained lying there for the whole of the night but his finger was not dressed. Of course, he was given a bed. But his real trouble was not attended to.

[Sardar Grbanta Singh]

When I met the Civil Surgeon in this connection he was surprised to hear that the subordinates had paid no heed to the poor Government employee simply because none of his relatives was there to look after him. These are the conditions prevailing in our State. I would request the Government to remedy them as soon as possible. Well, Sir, previously, there used to be a Peasant's Welfare Fund from which help was given to the village people for the education of their children. It is a pity that this Fund has been abolished. Besides this, it is a well known fact that the Government used to give grants to the District Boards for purposes of improving the sanitary condition of the villages and providing other amenities of life to the villagers. But as ill luck would have it, the Government has withdrawn that grant to the great detriment of the rural folk. Sir, it pains me to point out that the Governments in the past have been very tardy in making provisions for ameliorating the lot of the poor villagers who are ever ready to offer themselves for recruitment to the army for the purpose of defending their motherland and for recruitment to the police for the maintenance of law and order in the State. But with the coming into power of the new Government, I have every hope that the uplift of the ruralites in general and the down-trodden Harijans in particular will receive the attention it deserves.

Then, Sir, there is a great paucity of hospitals in the villages and medical aid is very scarce. Ordinarily, there are three categories of hospitals which are maintained in the areas. Under the first category come those dispensaries which are entirely subsidized by the Government but are under the management of the District Boards. The Government and the District Boards contribute funds on a half and half basis for the maintenance of dispensaries falling under the second category. The dispensaries under the third category are entirely run by the District Board funds. It is a thousand pities that only very recently the Government stopped the payment of subsidies to the District Boards for the dispensaries under the first category. As a result of the stoppage of this subsidy, the rural people will be hard hit as they will be deprived of the medical aid, which, though scanty was yet available to them. I would request the Government to reconsider this matter and see that the subsidy is again revived.

Apart from the hospitals and dispensaries, the villages stand in pressing need of schools. If illiteracy is to be liquidated from the rural areas, Government should make a liberal provision for the spread of a net-

work of schools there. Now-a-days, in some villages, the students have to traverse 7 or 8 miles to attend a school. I hope the present Government will see their way to providing abundant educational facilities to the village folk.

Then I would like to draw the attention of Government to the Criminal Tribes Department. I think this department has become out-of-date, out-modeled and out of tune with the present set-up, which has come into existence as a result of our freedom from bondage. In a free country, it is sheer injustice to dub a person as criminal, simply because he was born in a tribe, which was considered as a criminal tribe by the previous Governments. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to abolish this department as early as possible. I think that he should not lose any time in announcing its abolition, if he feels that I am putting forward a right demand.

Chief Minister: I announce that the Criminal Tribes Department will be abolished.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh: I welcome this announcement and congratulate the hon. Chief Minister for having held out this assurance on the floor of the House. As a matter of fact, this department has been a black spot on the fair name of the Congress Government and the people of the Punjab. The hon. Chief Minister deserves our thanks for assuring us of its early abolition.

Now, Sir, the Government has reserved 15 percent of the posts in the Government services for the Scheduled Castes. Although the intention of the Government is unquestionable in this matter, yet the pity of it is that Scheduled Castes hardly get their due share in the services. The reason is that the Officers-in-charge of the departments put obstacles in the way of the recruitment of the Harijans. They are so communal-minded and conservative that they cannot tolerate any person belonging to the Scheduled Castes being appointed to the services. So, if the Harijans fail to get their due share of 15 percent in the services, the whole responsibility falls on these narrow-minded officers. I would request the Government either to dismiss such officers or transfer them to some other places.

Then, Sir, the Government has passed orders for the remission of fees of the Harijan boys right from the first primary to the M. A. classes. But what do we generally find? Our Harijan boys are not allowed to enjoy this concession. I know of several Headmasters and Heads of Colleges

[Sardar Gurbanta Singh]

who would not give this concession of remission of fee on one pretext or the other. They have the audacity to tell our boys to go to Shri Jagat Narain or Shri Bhim Sen Sachar for remission of fees. They refuse admission to the Harijan boys sometimes on the plea of financial stringency and sometimes if they are admitted they are plucked deliberately and forced to pay their own tuition fees. So even though the Government has reserved a number of scholarships for the Harijans and has ordered remission of fees, in their cases, yet the Heads of the educational institutions give them no facilities. I would request the Government to take steps to call for the explanation of such officers or persons and take severe action against them.

Sometime back, the hon. Chief Minister had made an announcement on the floor of House that he would appoint an Under Secretary from amongst the Scheduled Castes. It is a pity that a period of three or four years has passed and yet no such appointment has so far been made. If this plea is put forward that a competent man from among the Harijans is not forthcoming for the post of an Under Secretary to Government, then I am not going to admit this. Only today when the hon. Chief Minister was reading out the names and qualifications of the persons appointed to the P. C. S., I found that the qualifications of the Harijan candidates were the best and the highest of all. So, competent Harijans are there; perhaps it is the will that is lacking. Why go far? Only recently 8 or 9 appointments were made in the Secretariat and yet no Harijan was taken or selected. It is my firm belief that the intentions of the Government are good but it is the officers, tainted with rank communalism, who stand in the way of the Harijans being appointed to high posts and taking their rightful share in the services. I would request the Government to give careful attention to this matter and save itself from the infamy which such officers bring to it.

Besides this, I want to draw the attention of the Government to another point and that is about the autocratic conduct of the Panchayat Officers. I am constrained to remark that these officers particularly do not care a fig for the Harijans, when they go on tours in the villages. In this connection I would like to quote an instance. There is a village Dhilwan, three-fourth population of which consists of Harijans. When the Panchayat Officer concerned visited that village, the Harijans requested him to give them a representation in the Panchayat according to their population. But he turned a deaf ear and constituted a Panchayat of men of his own choice ignoring altogether the rights of the Harijans. The Harijans of Dhilwan

appealed to the Deputy Commissioner for the redress of their grievance but there, too, their voice proved a voice in the wilderness. The Panchayat Officer had his way and the Deputy Commissioner paid no heed to their representation. So this is the state of affairs and I request the Government to teach a lesson to such arrogant and communal-minded officers by either dismissing them or transferring them to such places where they cannot bring discredit to Government by their invidious treatment of the Scheduled Castes or Backward Classes.

Mr Speaker: Now the hon. Member's time is over and I call upon Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma to Speak.

Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma (Haripur) (Hindi): Sir, before expressing my views about the demand under discussion, I want to draw the attention of the House to some Articles of the Constitution. We have taken oath under that Constitution and I would like to refer to its Article 33 relating to the 'Directive Principles of State Policy' because it has a bearing on the General Administrative policy followed by our Government. It is provided in Article 38 that-

The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life.

After that, I wish to refer to Article 39, which reads thus-

The State shall, in particular direct its policy towards securing—

- (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood ;
- (b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good ;
- (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment ;
- (d) that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women ;
- (e) that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of the children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength;
- (f) that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

[Shri Bhagat Ram]

Mr. Speaker, I have drawn the attention of the House to the principles laid down in the Constitution, so that we may be able to see whether the policy of our Government has been framed in such a way as to benefit and improve the condition of the maximum number of the people.

Sardar Ajmer Singh: On a point of order, Sir. Policy is not to be discussed at this Stage. That was discussed at the time of general discussion of the Budget. We have to discuss specific items of general administration at this stage.

Mr. Speaker: I quite agree and shall request the hon. Member to speak on the demand under discussion.

Shri Bhagat Ram: Sir, I was referring to those matters which are connected with the general administrative policy of our Government. I was submitting that the administrative policy of our Government should be such as may do the maximum good to the largest number of citizens. The general standard of living of the people cannot be raised till all the available resources in the country are made use of through industrialization. I want to make a few suggestions in this connection.

I do not object to the starting of Community Projects in four tehsils of the State and to the provision of money for that purpose, but... ..

Shri Nand Lal: On a point of order, Sir. Is there any necessity of discussing these subjects for which a separate demand will be moved ?

Mr. Speaker: I don't think there is any need for me to point that out to an experienced parliamentarian like the hon. Member.

Shri Bhagat Ram: The hon. Speaker can call me to order, if I am not speaking to the point, but the hon. Member sitting on my right has no business to ask me to speak about a particular subject.

Mr. Speaker: He has only drawn my attention towards it.

Shri Bhagat Ram: Administrative policy of the Government has very close connection with the development schemes, because the economic condition of the masses depends upon it. In district Kangra and Hoshiarpur, there are some lands which are lying waste and are not being put

any use. A part of the land has been declared Government property and it is in the possession of the Forest Department. Many forests are still unclassified. If the waste lands attached to the villages are placed at the disposal of the people, these can be used very profitably. Instead of the Forest Department controlling these lands, these should be treated as community forests and handed over to the Panchayats. If that is done, the villagers will develop them because by doing so they will be able to increase their income. The area affected by erosion will be better looked after and trees will be grown at places where these are needed. In this manner the Government can liquidate the control of the Forest Department over forests in districts Kangra and Hoshiarpur. These can be better looked after by the village panchayats.

In order to raise the economic condition of the people, it is necessary for the Government to industrialize the State and to develop the backward areas. In my district, particularly in tehsil Kulu, there are many cottage industries but there are no suitable facilities for the marketing of finished products. The same difficulty is experienced in the matter of fruit which is grown in plenty in Kulu. For this purpose we need good roads. I shall, therefore, request the Government to build good roads in District Kangra so that the products of cottage industry in that area may reach the markets easily and the standard of living of the people may improve. In this connection, I want to point out that at Dehra Gopipur there is no bridge to connect two districts, namely Hoshiarpur and Kangra.

Mr. Speaker: I have requested the hon. Member several times to confine his speech to the subject under discussion.

Shri Bhagat Ram: I have already asked for the ruling of the Chair. While speaking on General Administration, I have to refer to every matter connected with it.

I was saying, Sir, that yesterday the water of the river was ten to twelve feet deep near Dehra. A man trying to catch the boat fell into deep water and was saved only with great difficulty.

Minister for Irrigation: Sir, that concerns the Public Works Department and not the General Administration.

Shri Bhagat Ram: Sir, I want your ruling on this issue.

Mr. Speaker: I am of the opinion that your speech is very much rambling at the present moment. You should confine your remarks to

(Mr. Speaker)

General Administration and if you cannot do so, I am afraid, I will have to give a chance to speak to another Member.

Shri Bhagat Ram: Out of regard for your ruling, Sir, I leave this topic.

Then, Sir, it is a matter for gratification that the Ministers have applied a cut to their salary and the Deputy Ministers when appointed will also accept a reduced salary. Decision to abolish special pays is also welcomed but in my opinion the requisite incentive for work will continue to be absent in lower services so long as the existing wide disparity in salaries continues. Subordinate services are in fact the backbone of the administration and most of the arduous and onerous work is done by them. So long as their lot is not sufficiently improved, there cannot be any improvement in the working of the administrative machinery.

Mr. Speaker: Please wind up now.

Shri Bhagat Ram: Then, Sir, the complaint of the general public regarding prevalence of corruption in the administration is still continuing. The attitude of most of the officers towards the public is still far from satisfactory. They are bad-tempered and their treatment of the people who go to them with their complaints is insulting or almost so. If the Government were only to teach its officers to treat the public sympathetically and show them proper courtesy, it would not cost it anything but on the other hand win a world of good will for it.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (Punjabi): Sir, I must say at the outset that I am not going to use any sweet words in the criticism of this Government's policies. My words, however bitter, may please be taken in the spirit in which a patient tolerates a surgeon's knife when he is operated upon in his own interests. I shall take care to confine myself to administration only.

When the Chief Minister visited Bagewala some time back, I think the people whom he met had apprised him of the true state of affairs regarding law and order position, lack of roads and irrigation facilities, poverty prevailing in general, high-handedness of the Police and the prevalence of black-marketing. If he had agreed to travel by kacha dusty road, he would

have seen for himself the conditions prevailing in rural areas but fearing lest the paint of his car should be spoiled he dropped the idea of going further.

The treatment that the officers accord to the public in general is very bad. The attitude of the Police has not improved a whit. If no steps are taken to safeguard the lives of tenants from the attacks of the landlords this class would soon be wiped out. Much harm will have been done to them by the time the Government moves in the matter. I would appeal to the hon. Ministers in the name of the poverty prevailing in the country to reduce the salaries of the higher staff and give the low-paid employees an adequate wage. An increase of Rs. 5/- in their D.A. is not going to improve their lot. Small peasants, small traders and subordinate Government servants should not be neglected for any reason whatsoever. Have pity on their miserable plight! The cup of their patience is full to the brim. Let them learn the lesson of service from the communists.

Shri Kasturi Lal Goel: (Asandh) (*Hindi*): Sir, I find that a provision for Rs. 5, 29, 96, 000 has been made for General Administration in this Budget out of which Rs. 2, 76, 64,000 have been earmarked for Police alone. For the last four years, allocations under these heads have been made more or less of this very order. Whereas expenditure continues to be of the same old order, the attitude of the officers in general and the Police in particular remains more or less unaltered even after the achievement of independence. Even now when the Government claims to represent the poor, the state of affairs has not changed and everything continues to be done in the interests of the rich. The poor sections are experiencing the same old difficulties and handicaps which they experienced during the British regime.

Mr. Speaker: This is not relevant to the demand under discussion. The hon. Member should speak on the motion.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta (*Thanesar*) (*Hindi*): Sir, while speaking on the General Administration, I would say that the Government is incurring heavy expenditure on the salaries of its officers. Not to speak of the high salaries of Ministers, the officers in every department are drawing fat salaries which constitute a heavy burden to the poor finances of the State.

Now a days we find that people in towns and villages are in the grip of poverty. Thousands of our young men are out of employment. They

[Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta]

are scrambling for petty jobs which they cannot get without any influence or recommendation. Business is also slack. The businessmen are charging six pies per rupee as sales tax from every customer which pinches them very much. Property Tax is also very heavy. Besides this, exorbitant rents are being charged from the displaced persons. They are also in a miserable plight. Many of the displaced landowners have not been allotted land so far.

Mr. Speaker. I will ask the hon. Member to confine his discussion to the General Administration.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta. To cap it all, Sir, the standard of administration in our State has gone very low. Our education in schools and colleges is also devoid of any technical training which may give to the youngman the 'know-how' of living usefully and prosperously. Our youngmen have developed a craze for government service and do not like to take to other professions. The mentality of becoming a 'Babu' in some office grips the mind of our youngmen so strongly that even the acquisition of higher education is dominated by the same bias.

Besides this, I find that cases in the courts continue to hang fire for many months. There is no expeditious disposal with the result that the poor villagers have to undertake repeated journeys to attend long drawn-out hearings. Such a state of affairs clearly shows that the officer do not discharge their functions properly. They draw fat salaries but do not work for the welfare and the betterment of the people.

There is no realization of self-Government in the mind of the public because they do not find anything different from what they found under the old bureaucratic Government. Though I am sitting on the Government Benches, I must say that the rural people seeing this inefficient administration and officer falling from the high ideal of service have begun to lose confidence in the Government. Moreover, Sir, the officers who go on tour in villages care more for the interests of the rich than the poor as their demand for eggs, hens and wine etc., is easily met by the former.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade : (Nurpur) (*Hindi*): Sir, I must say that since our Government has come into the saddle, it has earnestly tried to tone up the administration. I do not deny the fact that there is a sincere desire on the part of the Government to reform the administration.

but it has not so far been able to make much headway in this direction. It is a universal complaint that the police do not behave courteously and have no sympathy with the public. The changed outlook of the police with the attainment of freedom is not much in evidence.

Shri Maru Singh Malik: Police is not included in the General Administration.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade: Very well, I am confining my remarks to the cut motion on the demand of which I have given a notice. Now-a-days, the attitude of police towards the tenants in the agrarian unrest is partial. They generally have sympathy with the landlords. Whenever any tenants wish to make reports against the landlords the police refuse to register them and in cases where such reports are registered the police instead of arresting the landlords arrest the tenants, with the result that their work on the land suffers. Sometime back, there were cases of police excesses against the tenants in Ferozepur district. On seeing this injustice, my hon. Friend Shri Teg Ram decided to go on hunger-strike and not to break his fast until the police in that ilaqa had shed off its old mentality. No Government can inspire confidence in the public if it cannot protect the aggrieved and give exemplary punishment to the aggressor. I may submit that this problem of landlords and tenants is becoming acute in the villages. Unless the Government comes to the rescue of the poor tenants by giving up its weak-kneed policy it will not be able to maintain law and order in the State.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) Sir, as the 1st item in the Budget is that of the Governor and his staff I would deal with it first of all. I know that our House is not empowered to vote upon this expenditure, however, I would like to place my views about it before the House. Keeping in view this top heavy expenditure, I have to remark that the man in the street can never be brought on this level. I would, therefore, request the House to approach the Central Government to make a heavy reduction in this expenditure. For instance, a provision of an amount of the order of Rs. 22000/- has been made for the Governor's dispensary alone, whereas no satisfactory arrangements for medical aid exist in the State for the poor people. In this connection I would state, Sir, that the Governor of Bengal has voluntarily accepted to draw Rs. 500/- p.m. as his salary and I think if our Governor would have been here he would have gladly.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not allowed to discuss the personal affairs of the Governor.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, what I mean to say is that our House should make a request to the Central Government to the effect that ours is a small State and with its limited sources cannot bear so much financial burden. For this reason the Central Government should come to our rescue in this regard.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member please to leave this topic ?

Shri Sri Chand : Then, Sir, I would emphasise the need of making a reduction in our own expenditure and ask the hon. Members to agree to a reduction in the Compensatory Allowance. If we people reduce our own expenditure we will be in a position to ask others to do so and thus considerable saving can be effected under this head. In this connection, I would suggest the Government to issue railway warrants to the hon. Members in place of allowing them to charge 1st class railway fare because instances have come to my notice where the hon. Members have charged 1st class railway fare while they have actually travelled in the 3rd class.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member to please desist from making allegations against other hon. Members ? It is not correct to do so.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, I have seen such cases with my own eyes. That is why I have uttered these words and if the hon. Members take it ill I am prepared to withdraw my words.

Sir, the next item that I would like to discuss concerns the salaries of Ministers. As the provision made under this head has exceeded all the previous amounts, there is a scope for reduction. Ours being a small State cannot bear the heavy burden of the high salaries of eight Ministers. In my opinion, in place of eight Ministers five would suffice. Considerable reduction in the salaries can also be made. Although hon. Members do not think it fit to express their opinion in the party meetings yet it is quite evident from their speeches that they are inclined to effect economy one way or the other. Sir, my contention is, that when the Ministers are getting such fat salaries, we have every right to expect from them a better and more efficient show than there is in other States. But the trouble is that our Ministers do not take any pains in the discharge of their duties. It is not right for a Minister going out to plant a tree to be accompanied by an army of officers, press representatives and a photographer. The Minister is photographed

while planting a tree piece of work that could be better done by a mali getting only Rs. 50/- per mensem.

It appears that the work of Brahmins has also been taken over by the Ministers. Wherever some opening ceremony of some building, institution or such place is to be performed or a foundation stone has to be laid a Minister's presence is considered essential. This kind of work can safely be got done by a Brahmin who, in addition, will give his blessings. They go to the extent of making speeches in colleges and schools which is the job of professors and not that of Ministers. I want to convey this fact to them that the public at large is fed up with their tours. When they are out on tours, no local officer can discharge his duties and functions properly.

The privilege of their getting Travelling Allowances has been stopped and in its place they have been supplied with state cars. In my opinion, they should prefer to travel by rail; and even if this privilege is withdrawn they should not hesitate to travel in a tonga and in its absence they might go round the state on foot. The campaign of touring was launched much in advance of the Ministry's oath taking ceremony. They should have made an endeavour to make themselves conversant with the matters which were to fall within the purview of their respective portfolios. On the contrary, no sooner did they get the possession of their new cars than all of them set themselves to task of having a trial of them by way of tours. These are not the ways of handling a Governmental machinery.

Then, Sir, one of my hon. Friends while making a speech made a mention of the existence of 25,73,000 Zamindars in our State. In reply, the Minister has dubbed them as germs of a disease and has stated that he is carrying on a constant warfare against them and yet he finds it hard to destroy them. These words do not befit him. I may state for his information that it is these very people whose gallant sons are carrying on the operations of war in the valley of Kashmir, keeping a watch over their bungalows and it is the same people who have put you into power. To call them the germs of disease is indeed a matter of shame.

In fact, the gospel of Communism is being instilled by the Government itself into the people's hearts. Ministers go to the villages and attempt to create a rift between the labourers and the zamindars. They also exhort the labourers not to co-operate with the landlords. Will this lead to labourers' welfare? Before the enforcement of the President's Ordinance, they assured the tenants that they would not be shorn of their customary rights.

Mr. Speaker: Is this subject under discussion?

Shri Sri Chand: Sir, this is definitely under discussion. I am entitled to discuss or tell the House what our Ministers are doing, as the salaries of the hon. Ministers are included in the demand for General Administration.

Then, Sir, they say that they are going to help the tenants particularly the Harijan tenants. In my District, the fact is that no one is going to surrender his land.

Is this Government setting a high standard of administration or law and order? A person by putting in hard work, makes the land fit for cultivation but is not allowed to reap the fruit of his labour because some body else comes and takes possession of that land from him. The Members sitting on the Treasury Benches are carrying on a propaganda on behalf of the Communists! They are instigating the tenants that they should take possession of the lands and that no body can oust them. Now an ordinance has been promulgated for this purpose. Ordinances are promulgated without giving a thought to every aspect of the question. The Governor has simply to sign these. I am unable to understand why a particular date i.e. the 30th April has been fixed in this Ordinance. I ask the hon. Ministers to explain whether these tenants had committed some crime, who were ousted on the 30th April, as they have not been given any protection by this Ordinance.

The result of all this is that the relations between the tenants and the landlords are becoming strained. The interests of the tenants are being put in jeopardy instead of being safeguarded by our Government. Now they say that the tenants, who have been ejected after the 30th of April, will be given possession of their lands again. By the time they are able to get possession of their lands the crops which were sown by the landlords during this period will be ready and it will be the landlords who will be entitled to reap the produce, and not the poor tenants. How will these tenants be benefited by this action on the part of the Government?

Sir, we find that every rich Member gets up here in this House and says that he will do this thing or that thing for the poor tenants and will try to remove their poverty. As a matter of fact, our hon. Ministers and others are carrying out the landlords' propaganda under the garb of helping the tenants. Sir, we have to admit that the prosperity of the whole of the Punjab depends upon the condition of agriculture. When a tenant is well off the whole state becomes prosperous. Even a shopkeeper cannot earn his livelihood unless the economic condition of the Zamindar Community is sound.

Then, Sir, these controls have been introduced in the State to help the Dalmias and Birlas i.e. the capitalist class. The prices of foodgrains are being kept low simply to help them. Just look at the Rationing Scheme which is being worked in our State! On the one hand, the daily scale of ration is reduced for an individual, while on the other the same individual is permitted to take his meals at a restaurant to his full satisfaction. Even now our Government is not inclined to lift the controls and abolish rationing, when some other deficit States are doing so. All these things go against the interests of the poor Zamindars. The poor ruralites are being crushed and taxed heavily for the sake of the urbanites.

Shri Daulat Ram Sharma (Harnirpur) (Hindi): Sir, today we are discussing the General Administration. We can discuss the working of every department of the Government since the salaries of all the hon. Ministers and the staff of the departments under them are included in it.

Sir, every Government has generally its own set policy which it follows. It has its own programme. Our hon. Congress Ministers are there to follow the programme as contained in the election manifesto of the Congress. But we find that they are not working according to the programme chalked out by the Congress. In practice, we find that they are going far away from the Congress Manifesto. We find, Sir, that they do not have a proper control over their departments. Instead the Secretaries are ruling the departments. As a matter of fact, the Ministers should be able to work independently of the Secretaries.

Sir, there are one or two other things towards which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers. I find that nepotism and favouritism have taken a deep root in the Governmental machinery. For removing these, I hereby suggest certain things to the hon. Ministers.

We find that certain officers adopt novel methods of selection and promotion when they have to favour a particular person. The Government should lay down a uniform policy for this purpose. Our Government should, also, like the Uttar Pradesh Government, create some authority which should keep a check on these things.

Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards wastage and corruption that are prevalent in its departments. For this purpose, I request the hon. Minister for Public Works particularly to pay attention to his department where these evils have reached the extreme. He will be surprised to note the instance that I am going to cite. Sometimes back, an honest contractor had been given a contract for some construction work

[Shri Daulat Ram Sharma]

by the Public Works Department. After the completion of that work, 700 bags of cement were left unused. He requested the authorities to take back those 700 bags. But to his surprise, he was asked by the authority incharge, to dispose of those bags in the bazar and not inform the office, otherwise, action would have to be taken against him. Sir, such is the state of affairs in this Department. Therefore, I suggest to the Government to constitute a Special Investigation Agency for this department. A similar state of affairs also exists in other Government Departments.

So, I would request the Government to appoint a Special Enquiry Agency which may investigate as to where corruption is most pronounced and bring it to the notice of the Government for necessary action.

Another thing is that the Civil Service Rules should be suitably amended so that it may be possible to take immediate action against corrupt officials and also those whose reputation is generally bad and to dismiss them forthwith. With these submissions, I resume my seat.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North West Hindi) Sir about six months back in the general elections we stated in our election manifesto—

The public services and methods of recruitment have to be conditioned and adopted for the purposes of the National Plan. Special training should be given where necessary for the purposes of the nationalized or public sector of our economy. It is essential that high moral standards should be maintained in our public work and while good work should receive commendation, bad work should be condemned. An effective machinery for this purpose should be devised.

There has been frequent references to corruption and there is little doubt that various forms of corruption exist as social evils today. Every effort should be made to put an end to this evil and some form of summary method must be devised to deal with such cases. At present.....

Mr Speaker: Does the hon. Member intend to read out the whole manifesto's here?

Shri Ram Kishan: No Sir, I will quote a few more sentences and then stop short.

At present the real difficulty in dealing with these matters is due to dilatoriness of procedure in departmental enquiries and judicial proceedings in the law courts & the standard of formal proof required which often leads to the guilty escaping punishment.

Sir, during the elections we promised to bring about radical changes in the administration so that the people might feel the glow of *Loke Raj*. It is only two months since the Congress came to power and not much

could possibly be achieved in such a short time. But still steps could have been taken towards some sort of reform in the administration so that the people might have felt that we intended to do something in the matter. I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards a Committee which was constituted sometime back in order to tone down the administration in the State.

Sardar Sarup Singh: Is it 'tone down' or 'tone up'?

Shri Ram Kishan: I am sorry. It is just a slip of the tongue. So far as the question of improving the administration is concerned, I would like to say that the Government would do well to study the report of the Committee on this subject appointed by the Government of India. It is understood that the report has already been published. In the Punjab itself, a Cadre Committee was constituted sometime back for this purpose. Similarly a Resources and Retrenchment Committee was formed sometime back to effect savings in expenditure and find out ways and means of improving efficiency. At present, the State of affairs is not quite satisfactory. In this connection I would like to mention an incident which goes to show that revolutionary changes are the need of the hour if we are to have a good administration in our State. About two years back, the Resources and Retrenchment Committee wrote a letter to an officer in the Punjab Civil Secretariat under some other name in order to judge the efficiency of work. This letter, after passing through thirty-one departments was replied to after about one and a half months. If such is the state of affairs in the Secretariat, how can the administration of the State run efficiently? As a matter of fact, our administrative machinery is very sluggish and inefficient. We promised during the elections to give to the State a system of administration wherein quick justice would be dispensed. But it is regrettable that no steps have been taken to achieve this object. An order which is issued by the Chief Minister reaches the villagers after about a month's time. It is generally believed in villages that a Patwari is more helpful than the Cabinet itself because he is at the spot and whatever he does, it takes one long to get undone from above and that too in exceptional cases only. In this state of affairs red-tapism has increased beyond all proportions. Although the British have gone, the system they left behind has not been changed to suit the needs of the time.

In the Punjab even after independence, the old and rotten methods of running the administration continue. If we are to make the experiment of

[Shri Ram Kishan]

democracy a success in our State the man in the street should be made to feel that justice shall not be delayed. For this purpose I would suggest that a high-level Committee be constituted to go into the conditions prevailing in the Secretariat and other offices and to suggest ways and means of toning up the administration.

In order to provide relief and quick justice to the people the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive immediately. At present, a Magistrate has to depend for his confirmation in service on the report of good conduct from the police. How can he be independent of their influence in his decisions? We held out a promise to the people that we would give them a popular and just regime. So I would request the Government to mend matters as soon as possible. At present we find more than ten Gazetted Officers where three would suffice. In Bombay Madras, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal the number of Gazetted Officers is comparatively less than it is in our State. It has been stated by the hon. Finance Minister that the Government has provided for the abolition of special pays of the officers within a period of three years. Could it not be done without any further delay? What about the fat salaries drawn by certain officers? Some of the hon. Ministers would say that they are being paid on the terms of the contracts entered into with them and it would be unconstitutional to reduce their salaries. I admit that it may be so. But can't they be persuaded to make voluntary cuts? If our President, Dr. Rajindra Parshad, can take rupees, five thousand per month and not his salary of rupees, ten thousand per month, why can't our fat salaried officers be persuaded to follow his example? Our State is a poor State. It is very much under debt. The per capita income in the Punjab is only Rs. 265 per annum. The present Punjab is not as wealthy as the United Punjab of canals and colonies. So we should make an all-out effort to effect savings and increase the resources. For this purpose the essential pre-requisite is to improve the efficiency of the services. Another point of which I would like to make a mention is this. The chief aim of the previous regime was to establish a Police State, so that nobody could raise his head against the tyranny and the high-handedness of the rulers. But we are imbued with a different object. We have to direct our energies to the transformation of this so-called Police State into a Social Welfare State. As you are aware, Sir, the officers had under the previous regime learnt only to rule and govern the people but now in free India we shall have to teach them how to serve the masses, who in reality are our masters. So what I want to drive at is that we should adopt

measures to bring about a reduction in the expenditure that is being incurred on this top-heavy administration.

I would draw the attention of the Government to the recommendations made by the Cadre Committee and other committees like the Estimates Committee, on which some of the hon. Ministers also served. The recommendations made by these committees are of a far reaching character and it is clearly stated therein that reduction can be effected without impairing the efficiency of the administration. I am of the opinion that the time is now ripe for translating those recommendations into action. If we do not give them a practical shape, how will we be able to meet the mounting expenditure on various departments? I hope the Government will give careful consideration to the suggestion that I have put forward.

Now I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government to the conditions prevailing in the State regarding law and order. I am constrained to remark that the hold of the Government on law and order is weakening day by day. The happenings that are taking place every now and then indicate which way the wind is blowing. The respect for law is waning in the minds of the people. The shooting tragedy near the Boileanganj Police Station Simla, and in the compound of the District Courts Hissar as also the stabbing affray in the compound of the Jullundur Secretariat go to show that disorderly elements are gaining ground and trying to disturb the peace of the State. I would request the Government to pay special attention to this matter because maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the State is most essential for its development.

There is yet another point which needs careful attention of the Government. I would rather sound a note of warning to the Government that red infiltration is taking place gradually in its departments. It has occurred in the Police in general and the P. A. P. in particular. I would, therefore, ask the Government to be careful and take active steps to stop this evil, nipping it in its bud. It is common knowledge what improper use the Communists made of a circular, which they managed to get from the Home Department by underhand means.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is over.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (Punjabi): Mr. Speaker, I may point out at the very outset that a considerable reduction can be made in the amount asked for by the hon. Chief Minister under the demand for 'General Administration'. In fact the cut motion, of which I gave a notice and which has been treated as moved, envisages a saving to the

[Sardar Achbar Singh Chhina]

tune of rupees 4 lakhs. I would make a few observations to show how this reduction can be brought about.

Now, Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that our State consists of only 13 districts. Naturally, there appears to be no necessity of having a large number of Ministers. Besides, it goes without saying that this State is making no headway in industrial or agricultural development and that the income per capita does not exceed five or six pice a day. Now under, such circumstances, when the economic condition of the people is shaky and when we are confronted with financial stringency and a deficit budget and therefore cannot afford to incur any wasteful or unnecessary expenditure in any form or shape, it simply passes one's comprehension as to where lies the need for having such a large band of Ministers. We have already had 8 Ministers and there is a rumour about the appointment of one more Minister. The matter does not stop here. The Government is intent upon swelling its ranks by appointing five Deputy Ministers and 14 Parliamentary Secretaries. It appears most improper on the part of the Government to have such a large number of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in a small State like ours. I am of the opinion that the number of Ministers can conveniently be reduced. When half a dozen departments can be placed under the charge of the Minister for Development and the Minister for Finance, why can't the same number of departments be controlled by other Ministers? Each Minister is as capable as his colleagues. In other words, if the number of departments under each Minister is increased, the number of Ministers would naturally decrease. In this way, only five Ministers can efficiently run the whole administration. Now to carry forward the argument to its logical end, it will be seen that if five Ministers can easily cope with the work of the State, the necessity of five Deputy Ministers and other paraphernalia, namely, the Parliamentary Secretaries would not arise. Then, if the posts of Deputy Ministers are done away with, the need for purchasing more new cars would vanish. If my suggestion is acted upon, there will be a clear saving of lakhs of rupees. Now if the number of Ministers is reduced to five, old cars can also be utilised by the remaining Ministers.

What I have stated is clear logic. Let us go a little farther. You are well aware, Sir, that all along the Congress has been pressing for the adoption of the principle of accepting Rs. 500/- and nothing more, as the salary of a Minister. If this golden principle is translated into action by our Congress Ministers, obviously a large amount of money can be saved from the item relating to the salaries of the Ministers and the saving can be

utilised for the benefit of the masses. In this connection, I would draw the attention of the Government to what is happening in our neighbouring country, namely, China. The Peoples Government there has fixed the minimum pay of a Government servant at Rs. 100/- p.m. and the maximum at Rs 500/-. These are not my words but I am quoting from the report of Mr. Chellapathi a member of the Goodwill Mission which visited China some time ago. My feeling is that if China can successfully run its administration by fixing the maximum and minimum limits of the salaries of its civil servants can't we gainfully emulate that example ?

I am of the view that if the Ministers today declare that they would not accept more than Rs. 500/- as their salary, this will have far-reaching repercussions on the departmental heads. In this connection, it may be mentioned that even before partition, the Congress used to cry itself hoarse that the posts of Commissioners should be abolished as they constituted an unnecessary burden on the provincial exchequer. I fail to see why these posts are still being maintained, when the Congress Party itself is in power and is running the administration of the State. I feel that the abolition of the Commissioner's posts will result in a substantial saving. Then, Sir, if you just go through the Budget, you will find that fabulous salaries are being drawn by high officers. For instance, you will find that the salary of the Financial Commissioners is Rs.24,000 a year, that of the Financial Commissioner for Refugees is Rs.42,000 a year, that of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission is Rs.30,000 per annum, that of the Legal Remembrancer is Rs. 33,000/- per annum and so on. It will be seen that in many cases the officers draw more than even what the hon. Ministers get. It also indicates that bureaucracy is still going strong. Everything is being done in the old hackneyed way. I can confidently say that even if my hon. Friends on the Treasury Benches have formed the Government, they will not succeed in changing the ways of the bureaucracy. It will be no wonder if they themselves become pliant tools in the hands of the latter. Why go far ? I will show how a Minister feels compelled to say ditto to what the departmental head says. The practice prevalent in the State is this. The report submitted by a constable will in the end be accepted as gospel truth by the I.G. Since the I.G. approves of it, it becomes difficult for the hon. Minister-in-charge to differ from his departmental chief. Even if deputation after deputation waits on the Minister and explains to him that the report made by the police constable is incorrect, the Minister would not accept this position. He would support his department.

Well, Sir, my object in bringing the high salaries of the officers to the

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]

notice of the Government was that under the changed circumstances bureaucracy should not be allowed to have its own way. The Ministers should have a strict control over them and reduction in their salaries should be brought about and the saving thus caused utilised on some other beneficent cause.

Now, Sir, when our Ministers go on tours, they have a good deal of police around them, probably to protect them. May I ask if they consider themselves the representatives of the people? If so, why do they need any guard or protection of the police? They should move about freely like commoners and should do away with the police guards. This action of theirs would result in a substantial saving of money.

Then, my hon. Friends have said something about the red-tapism prevalent in the administration. It does exist undoubtedly. I suggest that a committee should be constituted which should keep a vigilant eye over the conduct of the officers. But I would like to go a step still further. I suggest another Committee should be formed with a view to keep an eye on the conduct of the Ministers also. These Committees will report how the Ministers behave towards the departments and how the officers behave towards the people. The attitude of our Ministers is such that they do not care to reply to the requests made by the public. I sent a number of applications for increase of my allowance through the Superintendent of the Jail, but no reply was received. Applications and letters sent by the public remain lying in the Government offices and nobody cares to answer them. Hon. Ministers do not take the trouble of even reading most of the letters.

They go on tours for doing propaganda and draw allowances but do not attend to office work. They think that it can be attended to by the Secretaries and other officers.

I have suggested methods of reducing expenditure. I appeal to the hon. Members sitting on Government Benches to point out that the number of Ministers is very large and huge amount is being spent on them. Is it the duty of the Opposition alone to point out these things? The Government should appoint Committees to examine the working of the officers and also of the Ministers. Red-tapism should disappear and complaints of the public should be speedily

attended to. I hope that a large number of hon. Members sitting on the Government Benches will side with us at the time of voting on this demand.

Principal Harbhajan Singh. (*Garbhshankar*) (*Punjabi*): Sir, many hon. Members have spoken on the demand under discussion and I also want to express my views with regard to it. Some of my hon. Friends have objected to the Ministers' salaries. In this connection, I wish to point out that many of the officers working under the Ministers are getting three times or four times the salary of the latter. When that is the case, how can we expect such officers to carry out the orders of the hon. Ministers? This is a matter which needs to be considered and I am of the opinion that the salaries of the hon. Ministers cannot be reduced immediately.

This Budget, however, does not bear any mark of having been prepared by a new and free Government. It has been prepared on the old lines. A comparison has been made in it between the figures for the current year with those for the previous years. There should have been some such features in this Budget which could distinguish it from the old Budgets. Some marked changes should have been introduced by doing things which the previous Governments could not do.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words with regard to the appointment of Deputy Ministers, and Parliamentary Secretaries. If there is any necessity of appointing Deputy Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries, the hon. Ministers should by all means make these appointments, but only those persons should be appointed who can help them in the discharge of their duties. During the time of the previous Government, persons were appointed to these offices, not for assisting the Ministers but merely for receiving salaries. If our Government also acts in that manner it will have a very undesirable effect. If the hon. Ministers can carry on without Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries they should not appoint anybody to these offices.

The third thing which I wish to say is that some maximum and minimum limit of salaries should be fixed. Under the present system, some people are low-paid while others are in receipt of fat salaries. The disparity between the salaries of different officials should not to be so great. If the lowest pay is Rs. 100 per mensem the highest can be fixed at Rs. 400 or 500 p. m.

[Principal Harbhajan Singh]

Efficient and capable persons should be given higher starting pay by granting them advance increments. A person starting with Rs. 250 p. m. should not be allowed to draw Rs. 5000 or Rs. 6000 p. m. towards the end of his career. If one can pull on with Rs. 250 in the beginning, he can surely do so with Rs. 500 or 600, fifteen or twenty years later. The rates of increment should be reduced so that the maximum salary may not be very high. I hope that the Government will consider the suggestion made by me.

Shri Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (Hindi): Mr Speaker, we are discussing the demand under the head 'General Administration'. In order to judge the success or failure of this branch of administration, we have to see as to how much peace and comfort the general public is enjoying. For that purpose, we have to examine three things. First of all, we have to see whether the people are getting justice. The second thing which we have to examine is whether the administration of justice is cheap or costly. Thirdly, we have to consider the length of time taken in dispensing justice.

As regards the first test, I find that the rule observed by our courts is that it is more important to conform to the intricacies of law than to administer justice speedily. Our courts follow the principle that law must prevail, though justice may fail. In many cases the presiding officers of low-courts have admitted that justice demanded a particular decision but the law did not permit them to give that decision. They became helpless on account of the law. The Government should try to make laws in such a manner that they may result in justice being done to the people.

Then, Sir, the justice which we get is very expensive. A few days back, the Government promulgated an Ordinance. According to it, the tenants who were ejected between the 1st May and 15th June, 1952, can apply for being put back into possession of the land again. Lawyers have been barred from appearing on behalf of these applicants.

If proper care is taken while drafting laws and simple, clear, and unequivocal language is used, I am sure people would be saved from the botheration of securing the advice and help of lawyers for the interpretation of every minor clause and pay them exorbitant fees ranging from Rs. 100 upwards. In cases involving laws which are very easily understood lawyers should be debarred from appearing on behalf of the petitioners.

After all, the magistrates are also well-versed in law and can do without the help of lawyers in such simple cases in which laws are free from ambiguity. This will save a lot of money of the poor petitioners.

I would further suggest that the administration of justice should be decentralized and the ilaqa Magistrate should be asked to hold his court at the Tehsil or Thana Headquarters so that people may be saved from the expense, waste of time and botheration that travelling to the District Headquarters every now and then involves. This process of decentralization will ultimately lead to the vesting of judicial powers in the Panchayats. Justice will then be easily available to every poor man in the rural areas and it will not be delayed. Delay in the decision of cases is another evil and has got to be checked, for, as a renowned lawyer has put it 'justice delayed is justice denied. Under the present system cases whether civil or criminal continue to hang fire for two or three years causing great worry, nervous strain and expense to the persons involved. When ultimately the judgement is passed and the undertrials are convicted and sentenced to undergo a term of imprisonment, generally they already have had enough of such punishment in some cases even equal to the term of imprisonment awarded.

Whether it is the administration of justice or general administration, convenience, comfort and welfare of the people cannot be ignored. I give an instance to show that the voice of the people is not being heeded by this Government. Scarcity conditions are prevailing in Jhajjar Tehsil of my district. This matter was brought to the notice of both the Ministers who belong to this district but they refused to act until a report to this effect was received by them from the Deputy Commissioner concerned. Many cattle head have perished and others are dying of hunger, but the Ministers are still believing on the authority of the reports of local officers that there is nothing wrong with this ilaqa. They have come to this conclusion on the basis of a report that since the hay, "Bhusa" that the Government had imported was not purchased by the people at the rate of Rs. 4/8/- a maund and had continued to lie at Kosly Railway Station there was no scarcity in the ilaqa. The fact of the matter is that when people could bring hay at cheaper rates from the neighbouring tehsil, why should they have agreed to purchase it at an unreasonably high rate from the Government? It appears as though these Ministers have a dual personality. In their private capacity, they admit that they know of the conditions prevailing there but they will not believe it in their official capacity and remain helpless in the matter unless and until the Deputy Commissioner makes a report to this effect and the files come before them. Could there be a worse case of bureaucratic red-tapism?

[Shri Sher Singh]

The Deputy Commissioner himself feels that since the fodder at Kosli Station was not purchased by the people, he had no reason to say that there was scarcity there. I do not know who can speak to the Deputy Commissioner or the Ministers about the matter? The voice of the people should be listened to and believed, and not the files. If the reports on the files do not agree with facts, our officers and Minister should not go on harping on the validity of the written words and disbelieve the voice of the people.

Then, Sir, a provision of about Rs. 24 lakhs has been made in the Budget for the Civil Supplies Department. This is absolutely unnecessary. If the vote of the people on the question of the continuance of controls is taken, I am sure 99 per cent will be found to be against it. The systems of rationing and procurement involve irksome and abnoxious restriction for the poor in towns, and great hardship for the small peasants and agricultural labourers in village. When there is a surplus of foodgrains in this State, so much so that we can afford to meet the requirements of other States also, I wonder why the Government insists on continuing this department. I admit that if decontrol is introduced, some anti-social persons will resort to hoarding but surely it is not beyond the capacity of the Government with all its Police force to bring to book a small number of such offenders and nip this evil tendency in the bud. The fear lest some persons may resort to hoarding is certainly not a sufficient justification for the continuance of this Department with its large staff. By its abolition, a huge sum out of this Rs. 24 lakhs can be conveniently saved and utilized for better purposes. Controls should therefore be lifted at once. No delay in this will be tolerated by the people any longer.

Another important problem to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is the increase in crimes. The Father of the Nation had taught us that the easiest way of checking it lay in the reformation of the habits of the people. But it is a pity that ever since prohibition was introduced in one district of his State, no body has been serious about it. On the other hand persistent propaganda is going on that this experiment is bound to prove a fiasco and that the Government is denying itself revenues to the extent of 5 lakhs for nothing. Such propaganda is being carried on even by persons who were expected to exert themselves to make it a success. Even Ministers are a party to this sort of propaganda and are of the view that it would be better if the prohibition is ended and the income from excise utilized for education. Nobody appears to realize the real value and importance of prohibition to our society. On the other hand its alleged failure in America is cited as an argument for giving up prohibition here.

also. I may inform my friends who are under this impression that prohibition is still in force in some States of U. S. A. National prohibition during 1920-1930 resulted in 19 per cent decrease in the incidence of crime in that country.

Conditions for the success of a prohibition policy are more propitious in our country because the people here are generally religious-minded and drinking is forbidden by every religion and the consensus of opinion is against it. By enforcing it we can raise the moral stature of our people and remove much of the corruption rampant in our public life and services today. Therefore, Sir, I urge the Government not to neglect this important matter, and extend the area of prohibition in the State. It does not behove a civilized Government to go on depending on the sources of revenue on which no welfare state should depend.

Sardar Bachan Singh (*Bagha Puran*) [*Punjabi*] Sir, this is a poor State with a deficit budget and a shattered economy. Is it not then proper that the salaries of our Ministers and officers should also be commensurate with the income of the State and the standard of living of the people in general? Does it behove them to draw fat salaries when people are wallowing in poverty and misery? Who indeed would like to pay Rs 1,000 to a watchman to look after his ornaments worth Rs 500 only? Of what avail can this top-heavy administration be to this poor State? This State is running into a heavy debt and the salaries are daily on the increase.

Already the poor peasants are overburdened with taxes such as land revenue, abiana, local rates etc. Now it is proposed to levy on them a fee of Rs. 4 per acre for consolidation work. No heed is being paid to the fact that the condition of land has already very much deteriorated due to waterlogging and action of the saline. All that the Government is after is to squeeze the maximum amount from the tillers of the soil. Besides this burden of taxes, they have to bear the burden of catering to all the needs of the officers who visit their village, keep a cook for this purpose and so on. Officials of the Irrigation Department do not allow them to take their turn of canal water unless they offer them some money as illegal gratification. They have to satisfy those officials lest their crops are damaged for want of water at the proper time. Patwari is also a petty tyrant over their heads.

Then, Sir, thanks to the consolidation policy of the Government, even those tenant families who have been in possession of land for a century or even longer are being ejected.

Mr Speaker. Please speak on the demand under discussion.

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

Secondly, now that we have attained independence we should run the administration on the right lines and cut down the heavy expenditure on the item of salaries of officers. If the Government cannot itself pursue a right path then there is no harm if it acts upon the advice of others. Moreover, a large area of land in Nili Bar ilaqa has become totally unfit for cultivation and is getting converted into permanent waste land. But the Government instead of investing money in projects of economic development is squandering away money on the capital building project at Chandigarh ! This project could easily wait for another five years. Punjab is mainly an agricultural State and nearly 90 per cent of its population depends upon agriculture for their living. The Government should, therefore, adopt measures for the improvement of agriculture in the State. I think this development of agriculture is only possible if the Government abolishes the zamindari in the State.

Principal Iqbal Singh: (*Jagraon*) (*Punjabi*)- Sir, the good working of any department can be judged from three points of view, namely, (i) efficiency, (ii) economy and (iii) expansion.

If we look at the administration from the efficiency point of view we will find that there is dissatisfaction among the public all round which distinctly shows that there is something wrong with the administration. I would like to quote one or two examples to show the present standard of efficiency in our administration. If anybody has the chance of going to the Rehabilitation Office at Jullundur, he would see that the persons who have their cases fixed up in that office are asked to sit outside the barbed-wire fencing far away from the office building. When their cases are called up, the chaprasi's voice can hardly be heard by them with the result that their cases are sometimes filed on the ground of non-attendance. I may also quote another instance in this connection. Sometime back, I went to the Deputy Commissioner's Office and wanted to see the Deputy Commissioner in connection with some work. I was told by the chaprasi that the Sahib was asleep. I was surprised to hear that the Deputy Commissioner was asleep at that time. As I had to go to Africa and wanted that work done on that very day, I insisted upon seeing him. When I knocked at the door, I found the Deputy Commissioner working at the table.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know to which district the hon. Member is referring ?

Principal Iqbal Singh: You may take it as a reference to any district. Besides this, it takes about six months to get a passport. Sometime back I had to apply for a passport and when I presented my application to the Head Clerk, he directed me to go to a particular clerk who was dealing with such applications. I went to him and submitted my application to him but he told me that it was not his duty. He again directed me to go to yet another clerk who also pleaded his inability to entertain my application. So I was driven from pillar to post and did not know to whom I had to give my application. The hon. Members may, therefore, judge the maladministration and inefficiency which exist in the Government departments. Unless we change the mentality of the people we cannot expect them to develop a high sense of duty towards the public. If there is such maladministration and inefficiency in the Government departments, the hon. Ministers have no right to occupy these Ministerial Benches. I wonder that it takes one about six months to get a licence for arms here whereas in a backward country like Africa such a licence can be had within three minutes without any recommendation.

Then, Sir, there is great need for economy in Government expenditure. The present top-heavy administration does not meet the demand of a poor State like ours. In our State comprising thirteen districts there are eight Ministers. It would have been better if the number had been increased to thirteen so that there could be one Minister for each district.

Bhagat Guran Das Hans: (*Hoshiarpur*) (*Hindi*): Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Iqbal Singh has rightly remarked that there is need for the change in the mental outlook of every officer in the State. I would suggest that the hon. Ministers should follow in the foot-steps of Mahatma Gandhi and should stay while on tour in the Harijan colonies instead of rest houses. Such a step would raise the morale of Harijans and lead them towards a better life. My hon. Friend Sardar Gurbanta Singh has already described how the police indulge in highhandedness in their treatment towards the Harijans. Sometime back a marriage party went to a village called chotala of Haryana Thanna District Hoshiarpur to the house of a Harijan. When the ceremony was being solemnized a police man surreptitiously entered into the house and placed a bottle of illicit liquor in order to punish that Harijan at whose house the ceremony was being performed for preaching against 'begar'. He is now serving a term of imprisonment.

It has been said that the police are for the protection of the people but in fact it is not so. I am of the view that no department does greater harm to the people than the police.

Then, Sir, a public meeting was held in village Kulowal which is

(Sardar Iqbal Singh)

situated on Hoshiarpur Tanda railway line. In it, Harijans were asked not to do forced labour (*begar*) for others. The person who addressed the meeting and asked the Harijans to desist from doing (*begar*) was involved in a case by the Police who planted a pistol in his house. Consequently this person was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Then, Sir, if a complaint is received from the public against an officer or an officer is reported to be dishonest, he is simply transferred to some other place and is given no punishment. I will suggest that such an officer should be awarded deterrent punishment in order to teach a lesson to others. Again, Sir, if the Government has a mind to ameliorate the lot of the poor people, the condition of the Panchayats should be improved as was stressed by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation. He said that the real *Ram Rajya* could be established through the efficient working of the Panchayats. In this connection, I would suggest, Sir, that where the number of Harijans is large they should be given due representation in the Panchayats. I am reminded of a particular Panchayat wherein it was demanded that Harijans should be included and it was agreed to. But when the names were announced the name of no Harijan was to be found in the list and when a protest was made, the Harijans were asked to make a representation to the Government.

Shri Balwant Rai Tayal (Hissar City) (*Hindi*): Well, Sir, as it is only for the first time that I have been afforded an opportunity to place my views before the House, I would request that, if need be, I may kindly be allowed a little more time to speak than other hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker: May I request the hon. Member to proceed with his speech and not waste time. It is regretted that he cannot be allowed more than the specified time.

Shri Balwant Rai Tayal: Sir, many an hon. Member has taken part in the debate in connection with the demand for General Administration. My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has made mention of the Superintendent of Deputy Commissioner's office, Hissar, who has been transferred to Karnal and has stated that being a member of the minority community he is being harassed unnecessarily. I know the official in question and would request my hon. Friend not to shield a corrupt public servant on the lame excuse of his belonging to the minority community. I remember that he was Superintendent of the Office of Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak. Consequent upon certain complaints against him, he was transferred to Hissar which was objected

to by the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar. But, inspite of the unwillingness of the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar in accepting the official in question he was thrust upon him. Then another report was made against him by the new Deputy Commissicner of that district to the effect that the official was corrupt and a bad character. But, what happened Sir? Instead of taking any action against him the Commissioner confirmed the official.

I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity of stressing upon the Ministers, through you Sir, the need for taking serious action against such corrupt officials. Another case that I would like to place before the House is that of a Teksildar posted in Hissar district. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar instituted an inquiry against him and submitted is report to the higher authorities recommending the dismissal of this officer. But the Commissioner only thought it fit to stop his increment for two years and shelved the whole case. What I mean to say, Sir, (is that by adopting such methods our Government would not be able to gain popularity amongst the masses.

The next thing that I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, pertains to the restoration of law and order in the State. You would be surprised to know, Sir, that in my district alone, 11 cases of murder took place within a week. Three persons who were in police custody were shot dead in the Court compound of the Sessions Court. Not only this, after shooting them down the murderers ruthlessly cut their dead bodies into pieces with *gandasas*. In the existing state of affairs, I wonder if the Government would be able to restore peace and tranquillity in the State and the promises that we people held out to the poor masses would ever be fulfilled!

The last important point that I wish to place before the House is the need for cutting down the salaries of those big officers who draw more than Rs. 1000/- a month. I would also request the Government to refrain from appointing the Deputy Ministers. On the other hand, it should make an all-out effort to raise the standard of efficiency in Government offices. If no step is taken by this August House in this direction, I am afraid, never will we be able to fulfil our promises that we gave to the public at the time of recent general elections.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) Sir, the hon. Members have expressed valuable thoughts during to-day's debate to which I would not like to add much. But, I will make some such suggestions that have not been made asyet.

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri,]

Administration is an instrument to be used for advancing and promoting the welfare of the State. In its turn, the Administration has also got an instrument and that is the Services which, if efficiently made use of, can still heighten the blessings of a welfare State. Then, Sir what are those factors which must be borne in mind for developing the good traits and exterminating the evils? Our first and foremost need is the functioning of Government in accordance with the principles of democracy. I am sorry to say that the Administration instead of being decentralised as it should be in a democratic State is top-heavy. What I mean to say, Sir, is that the Ministers do not consult the hon. Members of this House while embarking upon a new policy.

Mr. Speaker: This is not relevant, please.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri: Well, Sir, I would leave this topic here. In order to make democracy work efficiently we should infuse the spirit of democracy in the Ministers as well as in the Services. In order to tone up the State, social solidarity and unity are to be brought about. The administration cannot run efficiently unless there is full cooperation between the various classes of Government servants. If the Government adopts indifferent attitude and do not take firm steps in this direction, there will be a sort of disruption in the ranks of Government servants which will cause still greater in will be efficiency. The next thing on which I want to lay stress is that the administrative efficiency should be improved. I am of the opinion, Sir, that in case we are able to do this, most of our work will be completed. It has been seen that those officers, who are highly-paid are satisfied with their lot. Only the low-paid employees are tempted to be corrupt. When these low-paid employees realize the dangers of indulging in corruption, then in order to get themselves shielded they begin to share their ill-earned money with their superiors. Therefore, Sir, I suggest to the Government that it should pay its full attention to all the low-paid staff, including clerks and peons. A great dissatisfaction is apparent in the subordinate services. The Government has done well by sanctioning an increase of Rs. 5/- in their Dearness Allowance. But they are not satisfied with that. This dissatisfaction is apt to come to the notice of the hon. Ministers very soon. This increase of Rs.5/- in the Dearness Allowance admissible to the low-paid employees is really very small. Therefore, I request the hon. Ministers to pay more to the low-paid staff.

Shri Jagat Ram Bhardwaj ; (Hoshiarpur) (Hindi) : Sir, much has been said with regard to the efficiency in Administration. I would also say one or two things more about it.

In my opinion, Sir, just after 1947, the standard of efficiency of our administration began to come down and I hope the hon. Ministers must be of the same opinion. The main reason for this fall in the standard of efficiency was that most of the officers had to leave for Pakistan and the posts which had fallen vacant were filled up in great haste. In the Rehabilitation Department a large number of persons had to be recruited and mostly those were recruited who had no experience of the Rehabilitation Department. Also favouritism and nepotism played there in famous part in those dark days. Even the able officers, who were deputed to work in that Department could not get adequate work from these new recruits. Moreover, Sir, our Government has not been able to pay its attention towards these things during this period. It has not cared to test the efficiency of these people and the result is that most of the inefficient persons, who were successful in getting themselves recruited at the time of Partition, are still there largely, contributing to inefficiency and corruption. The efficient officers have to do the whole work while the inefficient ones only draw their salaries. The system of distribution of work is wrong and inequitable. This is because of the wrong selection of the new recruits.

So far we have not been able to set up any agency which should check up the efficiency of the new recruits.

The public has to suffer for the inefficiency of the employees working in the Government Departments. It is generally seen, that when an application is sent to a Government Department, no action is taken on it for 5 to 6 months and after that long period, it is said that the application is not traceable. I, therefore, request the Government to appoint an agency, which should see that no arrears of work are left in any department.

The next reason for this increased inefficiency is that most of the posts in all the Government Departments are sanctioned on a temporary basis. The incumbents of these temporary posts, not knowing how long they will be kept, do not care to work and instead 'make hay while the sun shines'. It is only the permanent employees who, afraid of spoiling their records, work. And how much can they do? The accumulation of arrears in offices is due very largely to this type of attitude on the part of the temporary employees.

[Shri Jagaat Ram Bhardwaj]

Therefore, I request the hon. Ministers to take early steps to ensure to these temporary employees some kind of permanency so that they have an incentive to work. I believe that then these persons will improve in their work.

Then, Sir, the most deplorable thing that I have found in this budget is the provision for monthly salaries at the rates of Rs. 25/- Rs. 30/- and Rs. 50/- for some government servants. Sir, is it possible for any person in these hard days, to live on anything between Rs. 20/- and Rs. 50/- per month? In my opinion no body can live within either of these amounts.

One more drawback exists in the services and that is due to the fact that no planning has been made for a proper co-ordination between the different departments. There should be co-ordination between the Department of Agriculture, the Reclamation Department and the Civil supplies Department for the success of the Grow More Food Campaign. The duties of each Department should be chalked out and all these should be asked to work in co-operation with each other. Only then can the results be satisfactory.

I shall now, summarise, what I have said before you. Recruitment to all posts, should be made on a permanent basis and there should be asked proper co-ordination among the different departments of the Government. When these things that I have suggested are done, we shall be able to build our new Punjab, i.e., the Punjab of our dreams.

Sardar Waryam Singh (Amritsar) (Punjabi): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to certain matters which concern the General Administration in the State. The people were promised cheap and quick justice. But the things are otherwise. For instance, in the work of rehabilitation when the cases go up to the Deputy Commissioner for review he fixes the first hearing at Gurdaspur and then second hearing at Dalhousie which entails unnecessary expenses and trouble to the poor people. So, at present justice is dear and slow. Something should be done to make it cheap and quick.

Another matter to which the Government should pay special attention is that of the tenants. In our district the relations between the landlords and the tenants are strained and the Government affords no protection to the latter. The poor tenants are being ejected but the Deputy Commissioners do nothing to save them. For instance, the Deputy Commissioner was on tour at Aliwal Rest House and it was

brought to his notice that some Christian tenants were ejected forcibly in village Aliwal Jathan but the Deputy Commissioner took no action although he had been to that place and was himself convinced of the facts of the case and advised those tenants to file cases against the landowners in respect of these ejectments.

In Pathankot the relations between the tenants and the landlords are quite unhappy but nothing is being done to set the matters right and give protection to the tenants. In the matter of issuing arms licences the administration moves slowly and strangely. In most of the cases no replies are given for a long time. And when the reply does come, it is often in the negative stating that the quota has been exhausted. For the influential officers and favourites the quota is never exhausted. In Batala, a person got licence for a pistol in three days simply because he could humour the Deputy Commissioner. The manner in which these things are done is objectionable for instance, a person is awarded six months imprisonment; it takes him two weeks to get an attested copy of the order and he is thus delayed in filing an appeal against his conviction. Such like things make the Government unpopular.

Even in such an important matter as the Grow More Food Campaign the delay in giving temporary shoots is often pronounced and bribery, is prevalent. At Ghanie Ke Bangar from Lodhi Nangal Rajbah in Majitha Division applications were made for temporary shops but they were not attended to. On the other hand those persons who made no applications were granted temporary shoots. I can't understand why such favouritism is made in the matter of granting such shoots.

Similar are the conditions with regard to the procurement of foodgrains. There are different prices at different places. In our district the conditions are such that even in the markets of Batala and Dhariwal there is a difference in the rates of foodgrains. This state of affairs is harmful to the interests of the Zamindars. This has an effect upon the procurement of foodgrains also. I would request the Government to take steps in this direction so that the rates may be the same everywhere. These are some of the small matters but they are important in that they go together to make a Government popular or unpopular.

Chief Minister: (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) The hon. Member has stated that in a certain village some tenants have been ejected. He should kindly give me the facts of the case and state whether there tenants were ejected lawfully or otherwise. This information may kindly be supplied to me

[Chief Minister.]

in my room so that I may be in a position to look into the case.

Shri Mehar Singh (Hamirpur) (Hindi): Sir, it is a matter for deep regret that such a rotten institution as 'Zaildari' has been revived in certain districts like Kangra. It is only the officers who are happy over this step. The ordinary people do not like it. As the previous Government abolished this institution after due consideration, it is not the fitness of things to revive it because it is an engine of oppression for the poor people.

Another thing which I might here point out is that this budget does not contain anything for the benefit of the peasants and the farmers. No attention has been paid to the interests of the poor tenants whose plight is as miserable as ever. They are being mercilessly ejected by the *zamin-dars*. It is a matter for deep regret that nothing is being done for those who contribute to the treasury. The story of this budget can well please those who sit under the fans while the workers sweat in the fields for them; the story of this budget can well please the high officers who draw fat salaries, big landlords who do not know what areas are under their sway and millowners whose income is beyond their ken. The story of this budget cannot please the man in the street. There is nothing for him in it.

Well, Sir, I am really constrained to remark that no provision has been made under this demand for the betterment of the poor people.

Now I would like to make a few observations with regard to the Grow More Food Scheme. The less said about this item the better. My feeling is that the money earmarked for this purpose so far has altogether been wasted. Nothing substantial has been achieved in this direction while a great show was put up by the officers who conducted this campaign. More money was wasted on the purchase of jeeps and consumption of petrol than on measures for actually growing more food. The petrol which the officers used for making grow more food campaign a success, was simply wasted and this could better be utilised on the Kashmir front where our soldiers were fighting hard to save the Kashmiris from the aggression of Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is irrelevant. Kashmir has no connection with this demand. He should confine his remarks to the motion under discussion.

Shri Mehar Singh : It is relevant, Sir, because the grow more food campaign was conducted by the officers of the Government, and thus come

under the demand now before the House. However, I bow to your ruling and leave this point by saying that so far as my district is concerned, this scheme has proved a dismal failure because not a single potato was grown and the money set aside for this purpose was merely squandered by the officers.

Now I advert to the department of Civil Supplies. The existence of this department reminds me of a pith saying in English i. e. 'in the midst of plenty the nation starves'. Ours is a State which is surplus in foodgrains and yet our people cannot find sufficient food to fill their stomachs. I feel that if the control on the movement of foodgrains in the State is removed, the people will be relieved to a considerable extent and the food situation in the State will greatly ease.

Then, I take up the Police Department. What is the state of affairs here? A constable has to work in the houses of his big bosses. He thus leads a humiliating life. Besides, his salary, namely, Rs. 30/- p. m. is meagre with which he cannot make his both ends meet. I suggest that the minimum pay for a constable should be not less than Rs. 100/- p. m., otherwise he is bound to employ underhand means to augment his income so that he could support his family. I plead his cause with all the force at my command because I feel when no reduction is being made in the salaries of the high officers, why should he be penalised? His salary should also be increased accordingly.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is over and I call upon Bakhshi Partap Singh to speak.

Bakhshi Partap Singh (Sujanpur) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, through you, I want to place before the House the views of the suffering people of my ilaqa. I may point out at the very outset that before India achieved Independence, the officers under the previous regime used to tour mountainous areas of my constituency despite the fact that they had to traverse through difficult terrain. The Deputy Commissioner and other high officers did pay visits to our ilaqa and hear the grievances of the people. But after the dawning of freedom on our country, a set-back has taken place in this respect. What to talk of a Deputy Commissioner, not even the Tehsildar cares to visit our ilaqa. Instead of coming to this hilly tract and seeing things at the spot, he completes the entries regarding mutation of land in the plains and sends the information accordingly. This is not fair. I am of the opinion that touring of this ilaqa by the officers is most essential for the

(Baktshi Partap Singh)

smooth and peaceful running of the administration. The absence of officers for long periods from the rural areas, particularly in my ilaqa, is bound to cause resentment, misunderstanding and worry among the people. I hope Government will give its careful attention to this matter and see that the people of my ilaqa are not put to any hardship on account of the continued and long absence of the officers.

Then, there is another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government and that is this. The officers send their tour programmes but cancel them without sending due information in time. The result is that the people are put to a great hardship. They wait, wait and wait at the places where these officers are scheduled to encamp. But after a weary wait they have to go away disappointed as they are informed that the officers concerned have cancelled their tour programmes. I request that this practice must be stopped and the people of my ilaqa should not be put to inconvenience.

Then, Sir, plying of Buses between Pathankot and Chobu has been stopped. As a result of this the people generally and the militarymen particularly are being put to great hardship. This was a convenient means of transport and the same has been withdrawn. A representation was made to the officers concerned for the revival of the plying of buses on this route but so far nothing has been done and it is not known whether any action will be taken in regard to this request or not because so far no reply has been received about the representation. I would request the Government kindly to redress the grievances of my constituents in this respect and permits for the running of Buses should be granted at any early date.

In the end, I would request that salaries of high officers should be reduced and those of low-paid officials should be increased. With these remarks I resume my seat.

एक हंगामा पे मौकूफ है घर की रौनक
नोहोए गम ही सही नगम ऐ शादी न सही।

Shri Lal Chand Prarthi (Kulu) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago when the Budget was presented, a large number of speeches were made by the hon. Members. Today the demand regarding 'General Administration' is under discussion and a fairly large number of hon. Members have given expression to their views on the subject. Some expressed satisfaction and pleasure at the Budget and others made it a target of vehement criticism. Similar has been the case today. Some hon. Members considered the amount asked for under this Demand as too excessive and others thought it necessary in the best interests of the State. I would also like to make a few observations on this Demand.

My submission is that the people can feel the glow of Freedom only if they find a real change in their environments and their day to day dealings with the machinery of the Government running the administration of the State. For instance, if a poor peasant who has to come in contact with the officials of the Revenue and other Departments daily, finds that with the dawn of Independence, he has begun to receive a fair deal at their hands and he no longer has to grease the palms of the patwari or the zilladar etc., then naturally he would think that the change in the mentality of the official is the direct outcome of Independence. In the same manner if a common man who daily comes in contact with the law courts, begins to realise a change in the manner of the administration of justice, for instance, he gets cheap and speedy justice, he will certainly feel the glow of Freedom, because previously he had to offer illegal gratification for the attainment of his object.

So what I want to drive at is that if a man in the street, in whatever sphere of life he may be placed, finds a wholesome change-a-change for the better-a change that mitigates his difficulties in his day-to-day dealings then alone can he have the feeling that his country is now free and that now he is a citizen of a free country. Now what is the main source of this feeling of realisation of the glow of Freedom? It is the change in the general administration of a State. But what is the state of affairs, here? We find no tangible change. The Budget has been prepared in the same old hackneyed way. The provisions that have been made in it indicate no substantial or radical change in the items for which they have been earmarked. In this connection I may point out that for any revolution it is essential to bring about an intellectual revolution in the masses and administration of a State. But in our case although we have won the Freedom, intellectual revolution has not come.

Now, Sir, I come to another point. I represent a very backward area. The borders of my constituency touch Tibet and China. The inhabitants of this area are very poor and illiterate. If unfortunately anybody has to lodge a report at a police station, he cannot do so without paying rupees five as a bribe, and the amount of harassment that he receives at the hands of the police, is in addition to the financial loss that he undergoes due to the corruption prevalent in the police department. Besides, this evil is not restricted to this Department only, it is rampant in every sphere of the administration at Kulu. I would request the Government to root out the evil of corruption from the administration there and take steps to liquidate illiteracy from amongst the masses.

(Shri Lal Chand Prarthi)

Then another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this. The posting of officers to Kulu is done as a punishment. That is if any officer is found to have gone off the rails, he is transferred and posted at Kulu, as a matter of punishment. Now, Sir, you will see that no officer, who is sent there out of punishment, will ever take interest in his work. My submission, therefore, is that postings and transfers of officers at Kulu should be made in the normal course and no officer should be made to carry the feeling that he is going there as a punishment. If this is done, I hope this will have a salutary effect on the administration.

Now, as you are aware, Sir, Dussehra Festival celebrated at Kulu is the finest in India. Now what do the high officers in the plains do on this occasion? They fix their tour programmes for Kulu during the Dussehra festival. In other words, they show to the Government that they are going to pay an official visit to Kulu in the discharge of their duties, but in reality they go there for merry-making, just to make purchases of shawls, apples etc., which are offered for sale during the festival. Besides, it is clear that no work can be transacted during the celebrations. So they eat, drink and make merry and then come back and charge their travelling allowances, which I think, are a sheer burden on the tax-payer. My submission is that they should not fix up their tour programmes during the Dussehra Festival. They should visit Kulu some other time so that they may be able to transact work for which they take so much trouble to go there. I am sure that their visit on other occasions will prove more beneficial to the people of that ilaqa than during the celebrations of the Dussehra Festival.

Now I wish to say a few words with regard to the Grow More Food Department. In 1947, the floods caused a great damage to the Crops in Kulu. A large number of kuhls were damaged. The Government gave sufficient financial aid but it did not bring about any appreciable good. A Committee should be appointed to find out the cause of water being still not available in the kuhls. The Government should also take immediate steps to remove the deterioration in the administration in the Kulu sub-division.

Shri Babu Dyal (Sohna): (*Hindi*) Sir, I am of the opinion that the General Administration of the Government for which a demand of Rs. 1, 59, 14, 770 has been presented to the House is not leading to any good of the masses. The term "General Administration" includes the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. These departments are not

functioning in such a manner as may result in the good of the general public. Before the attainment of independence, the Congressmen used to go to the villages and tell the people that when the country became free, the rich as well as the poor would get justice and every body would have equal opportunities in life.

As regards the legislature, I notice that we have passed no new laws in keeping with the changed conditions. All our legislation centres round the old laws. The countries which want to make real progress are acting differently. I read in the newspapers, day before yesterday, a statement by Professor Govind Ram a member of the Cultural Delegation who recently returned from China. He stated that all the old laws had been repealed in that country. Land system in China has been so reformed that no such thing as ejectment of tenants can take place in that country. Here cases of ejectment of tenants take place every day and there is great unrest among them. If anybody pleads their cause, he is challaned under Section 107. Patwaris are causing great harassment to the tenants by making false entries in the revenue records.

The economic problem in China has been solved by distributing land among the cultivators. Similar action has been taken in Kashmir. Sheikh Abdullah has given land to those tillers who cultivated it properly, owned oxen for this work and depended on it as the only means of their livelihood. He went to villages himself and told the cultivators that the land belonged to them. He has spent no money in effecting this change. When we ask our Government to set the matters right in this State, we are told that a system which had existed for decades could not be changed all of a sudden. If we inform the police that there is an apprehension of breach of peace on account of the strained relations between a certain landlord and his tenants, they challan all the tenants and one or two servants of the landlord. In my own District the police officers are behaving like dictators. A few days back, a young man was run over by the car driven by a person related to the Superintendent of Police. That man cried for water but nobody supplied him a drop of it and he died. A Police constable kept watch over that young man till he breathed his last. Next day his dead body was declared unclaimed and it was cremated at the expense of the Municipal Committee. On the third day that man's parents came to the village and they went to the police station to lodge a report. They were put off by the Police who told them to bear their bereavement patiently as life and death were in God's hand. When I was told about this incident, I wrote a

(Shri Babu Dyal)

letter to the hon. Chief Minister. I requested him to order an enquiry into the matter and as the normal practice in such cases, to transfer the Police officer concerned to some other place. He asked the Superintendent of Police, C. I. D. to enquire into the matter. Before that officer reached the district, the Police officer against whom the enquiry was to be conducted was informed on the telephone. He threatened all the witnesses that if they gave evidence against him, they would have to face dire consequences. The S. P., C. I. D., sent for me and asked me to produce any evidence that I had. I told him that it was no use holding the enquiry after informing the person concerned on the telephone. What was the result of my telling him that thing? It is now being said that the members of the Legislature are so irresponsible that they should be challaned under Section 182. This is the State of administration in our State.

[The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday the 26th June, 1952]

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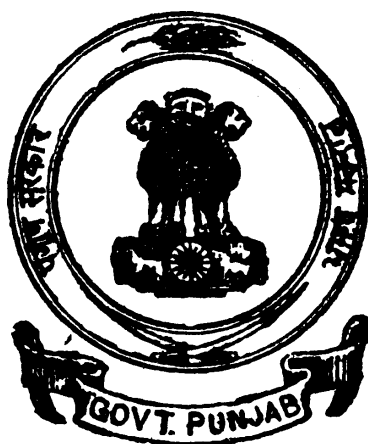
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

26th JUNE 1952.

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OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1952.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at
2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : We have great demand upon our time today as the hon. Chief Minister has to speak at 3-30 p.m. for about an hour. I have privately consulted the hon. Members of the House and I have decided that the question hour may be dispensed with. I will call upon Sardar Wazir Singh to make his speech.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

General Administration

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi) Sir, the discussion on General Administration has been going on in this House since yesterday and from the speeches delivered from the Government Benches as well as from the Opposition Benches it has become clear that the standard of efficiency in the administration has gone very low after the partition.

Mr. Speaker : I may inform the hon. Members that criticism on police during this discussion would be regarded as relevant.

Sardar Wazir Singh : The members of the Opposition who have taken part in the debate have mainly criticised the heavy expenditure and efficiency of the administration. I honestly believe that efficiency in the Government administration has deteriorated very much since

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

the partition and expenditure has also swelled beyond all reasonable limits. I would, therefore, ask the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches who have been so vociferous in their criticism against the Government to vote against the Government when the question of passing this Demand comes up before the House. If they fail to do so then it would mean that they have merely wasted time and public money by criticising the Government. In such a case it would be better if they make speeches in accordance with the instructions of their party. If they had not made long speeches criticising the Government the discussion on General Administration for which two days have been allotted would have concluded in one day and there would have been a saving of thousands of rupees to the State exchequer.

In order to criticise the General Administration, I would dwell upon two points, namely, efficiency and expenditure. With regard to efficiency in the administration, all my friends have said with one voice that efficiency has deteriorated very much since the partition. In such circumstances we have to consider how we can tone up the administration. No Government can run successfully unless its administration is efficient.

I may submit, Sir, that after the attainment of freedom our officers have begun to feel that under the present regime, efficiency and merit do not find any recognition and that favours can be got by fawning upon the officers. There can be no doubt that during the British regime efficiency was at its highest level. The European officers had great regard for really efficient men and they gave them accelerated promotions. At that time administration was of a high order. As time passed and this Government held the reins of office the level of efficiency became gradually low. So I would like to inform the Government through you Sir, that so long as efficiency in the administration does not improve, it would be difficult to better the lot of the people. There are two main factors which go to improve the efficiency in the administration. Firstly, the officers should be made to realise that efficiency and merit alone should be the test for promotion and secondly there should be no interference in the administration by the Ministers. What we find today is that whenever our Ministers go on tour they are pestered by their voters and supporters

to do many things for them. Someone would demand that he be allotted land in a particular village. So, under pressure our Ministers have to ask the Deputy Commissioners to accommodate these persons. The Deputy Commissioners in order to please the Ministers have to grant the requests of these people and while doing so they also favour their own men with the result that the deserving persons are ejected from their lands and asked to go to other villages.

Fortunately or unfortunately our hon. Chief Minister has been returned from my district. I know that there is a class of his supporters who regard themselves as the real Chief Minister and there are others who regard themselves as ministers. All his voters assume high airs and regard themselves to be not less powerful than Deputy Commissioners. All these people are lowering the standard of administration.

Sir, there is so much interference by the Ministers in the day to day administration that it has become impossible for the officers to work independently. The Ministers go to the extent of trying to influence the decisions in judicial cases and succeed in getting the cases withdrawn or hushed up. (Voices from the ministerial benches: Will you give concrete examples?) I am not permitted by the hon. Speaker to give the names of any persons but if I were permitted to do so I am afraid it will be a long list and will no doubt extend easily to 200 pages.

Now I advert to the heavy expenditure which is the unhappy feature of the present administration. Ours is already a deficit State and there is great need for making economy in Government expenditure. But it appears that our Ministers are not fully alive to the financial weakness of our State and they have put more burden on its poor finances by increasing the number of Ministers from 5 to 8. Our Ministers are drawing fat salaries and those officers who were drawing Rs. 1,000 per mensem before the partition are now getting Rs. 3,500 per mensem.

It is beyond the slender and meagre resources of this poor and shattered State to bear the expenditure of eight Ministers, five Deputy Ministers, nine Parliamentary Secretaries and one Chief Parliamentary Secretary. Nor is it proper for us to have such a top-heavy adminis-

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

tration when the people are wallowing in poverty and are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Instead of trying to save as much money as possible from the General Administration and earmarking it for the beneficent departments, the Government seems to be bent upon spending the maximum amount on the General Administration. Funds such as Special Development Fund and Peasants Welfare Fund, for which money used to be provided for the benefit of the poor in the Budgets of previous years, have been totally abolished.

The condition of administration is going from bad to worse due to the undue interference of those who are connected with the Ministers or are their camp followers. Whenever the Ministers go on tour, these people accompany them, put undue influence on the officers and manage to get things done by intimidating them. If the number of Ministers has been increased from 5 to 8 and this strength is to continue, I would appeal to them in the name of God to stop going on tours because it results in undue interference with the work of administration.

Now, I want to say something with regard to the administration of justice. It is very important that justice should be expeditiously administered. Inordinate delay in the decision of cases, whether civil or criminal, results in great hardship and expense to the people involved. Many months are wasted in the investigation of simple cases and the under-trials rot in jails for a number of years before final judgment is passed in cases against them. The process of law is so slow and expensive that if in the meanwhile there is a change of Government, it has its effect on the *sub-judice* cases. The steel scandal cases and the fate they ultimately met is an instance of this kind. After spending thousands of rupees these cases were ultimately withdrawn by the Government. Will the Government inform me under what law and rule they have been withdrawn?

I feel, Sir, that justice shall never be available to the poor so long as the executive and the judiciary are not separated. There is no gainsaying the fact that the separation of judiciary from the executive is a matter of vital importance. The position at present is that the Magistrate who is a subordinate of the Deputy Commissioner

dare not decide any case in which the former has any interest for fear of his character roll being spoiled or his promotion stopped. Is this the independence of the Judiciary which is today recognised to be the principal requisite for the proper administration of justice ?

So long as Judiciary is not freed from Executive interference individual liberty will remain a mockery and mis-carriage of justice will continue ! The Magistrates should, therefore, be directly under the control of the High Court and the Deputy Commissioner should have no concern with them. This reform is the crying need of the hour.

Now, let me tell you, Sir, what this Government, which is never tired of professing to be representative of the people in the rural areas, has done for their sake. By its bungling policy it has created bad blood between the tenants and the landlords. The legislation that was passed to stop the ejection of tenants has, instead of creating happy relations between the two, fanned the fire of strife and further strained their relations. The result of this muddle-headed policy is visible in the frequent quarrels between the Zamindars and the tenants and the murders of the tenants. The Act enacted with a view to safeguarding the rights of the tenants has done good neither to them nor to the Zamindars.

Sir, what I want to urge is that if the Government has really at heart the interests of the rural people it should set up a Committee and try to reduce expenditure with its help. I see no justification for paying more than Rs. 100/- per mensem as compensatory allowance to the Members of this House. After sitting for a few days, the Members run to their home districts every week and the Government has to incur expenditure to the tune of thousands of rupees in the shape of their travelling allowances. Instead of continuing this Session for two months with frequent recesses and thus wasting our time, it should be better if it is finished in 20 to 25 consecutive sittings. This will at least save the time of the Members of the Opposition.

Shri Teg Ram : (Khuian Sarwar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to submit that the British had been ruling over this country with the help of the services. They had recruited officers in the I. C. S., P. C. S. and

[Shri Teg Ram]

the Police simply to keep the people of this country slaves. Under the instructions of the British, the attitude of the Government officers used to be very stiff. They meted out harsh treatment to the public. They used to live with great pomp and show and this grandeur and aloofness was intended to prevent the public from raising their voice against the Government. The British rulers had trained these services in such a way that they used to remain aloof from the public. They were asked to live like that because the British rulers did not wish that they should mix with the public and get an opportunity of hearing anything against the administration. I am pained to find that our Government has also patronised the same services. I want to point out to the hon. Members that the same officers, who adopted unsympathetic attitude towards the people as the British wanted them to do, and served them for periods ranging from twenty to thirty years, and who tried their utmost to maintain the British rule in this country and crush the patriots are even today found in large numbers in the services. How can these officers, who during the British regime had tried to preserve their rule and always tried to suppress the Congress movement, be expected to be loyal to the Congress and the Congress Government? They are claiming to be loyal to the Congress Government simply because they know that they are its paid employees! In fact, they are against the Congress and are carrying on propaganda against it. The Government should have no faith in them. Some of the hon. Members have been obliged to point out to the Government that these Government servants do not care to carry out the instructions issued by it. I want to point out to the hon. Ministers that we cannot expect these officers to work out the policies chalked out by the Government. How can the General Administration of our Government be satisfactory when it is being run with the help of such officers who used to send the patriots to jail by making the capitalists and big jagirdars give evidence for the prosecution? Under such circumstances how can we feel any substantial change after the attainment of freedom?

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the form of Government, which Mahatma Gandhi desired. He was not for a bureaucratic form of Government or a Government which may be run by the services. He wanted that the Government should be run

with the object of serving the people. He desired that the Government officials should reduce their expenditure and draw smaller salaries. He particularly wanted that the expenditure on administration should be brought down.

Further, I am grieved to point out that these Government officers are responsible for the failure of the Sarvodya Scheme of Mahatma Gandhi, under which a number of workers were being trained for the last two years. Some days back I had the opportunity of meeting some workers of this scheme at Jullundur. They had spent 15 to 20 years of thier lives in the service of the country. They told me that they had been treated as sweepers by these officers of the Congress Government simply because these workers did not wish to adopt a stiff attitude towards the public. They wear Khaddi and scrub the floors themselves. These officers have not liked the Sarvodya Scheme or the work done by the persons trained under it. Then Sir, I want to place a few facts regarding Tehsil Fazilka before the House. My hon. Friend from Nurpur, has already made a reference to certain happenings. The zamindars of village Khatwan, caught hold of some cultivators working in the fields of village Sheranwala in Tehsil Fazilka and kept them behind closed doors for six hours. They gave them severe beating. The police has not so far taken any action against those zamindars.

This happened in Sheranwala. Another similar incident occurred in that very village. Two persons whose clothes were smeared with blood were unable to get a medical certificate till four days after the occurrence. Many such incidents have taken place in Fazilka Tehsil. On the twenty-first the Commissioner paid a visit to that village but another incident of a similar nature took place at Sheranwala on the very next day. A person was caught and forcibly prevented from going and making a complaint to the police. His hands and feet were tied. At village Nihal Khera a kisan was beaten mercilessly by a zamindar in the presence of a policeman. He received severe injuries on his head. When he was removed to hospital he was in a precarious condition and could not eat or drink anything. Even milk could not go down his throat. It is strange that even in these circumstances, no report was lodged with the police for eight days. There is a kisan named Mansha Ram of the same village. The whole of his produce was taken away by the zamindar but no action was taken in the matter.

[Shri Teg Ram]

During the last two months there have been numerous reports of ejectments of tenants but the Government takes no notice of them.

The condition of Government employees is such that for a copy of the Girdawari the patwari demands one hundred rupees from a poor Kisan. If the hon. Members happen to go to Fazilka, they will see that the conditions prevailing there are deplorable. In village Waryam Khera a Kisan named Jetha Ram was beaten mercilessly but nobody listened to his complaint. In fact lawlessness prevails everywhere.

Sardar Shamsher Singh: (Ludhiana Sadr) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,59,14,770 in respect of General Administration is before us for consideration. In this connection my view is that such a large amount for General Administration is nothing but a burden on our poor finances.

In the first place, we can easily save a sum of rupees one lakh and a half by passing a resolution in favour of abolishing the Legislative Council, which serves no useful purpose. (An hon. Member: Then why not abolish the lower House as well?) If the hon. Members think that no useful purpose is served by the Lower House and that it is incapable of doing any useful work for the people of the State, then it can also be abolished (An hon. Member: In that way the Upper House also serves a useful purpose by revising our legislative measures). But I consider it superfluous. There may be some people who will demand that there should be another House to which the measures passed by the existing two Houses should go and thus there will be no end to this. This is a weakness on our part. We can do without the Upper House and it should be abolished to save unnecessary expenditure.

Another item from which saving can be effected is the number of high salaried officers in the Civil Secretariat. At present it is being run on the same old bureaucratic lines. There is a large number of officers in the Secretariat who do no useful work. In addition to the Secretaries of departments, there are various posts of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries and what not! Who knows that the need of having Supreme Secretaries may also arise at any time! In a State comprising thirteen districts only, a large number of officers have been appointed. There are Directors, Deputy Directors, Additional

Directors and so on in the various departments which are a needless burden upon this State. In Simla, in certain departments, the system of appointing officers on special duty has come into vogue. These are generally sinecure posts. I would strongly urge upon the Government the necessity of effecting economy in expenditure by abolishing such posts. Why does the Government not abolish the posts of Commissioners and reduce the number of Financial Commissioners? They have no work to do. I often read in the newspapers that they go about and perform opening ceremonies of various libraries and art exhibitions. Can't we find other respectable citizens who can do such work? In this manner we will be saving lakhs of rupees. .

Sir, another item to which the attention of the members needs to be drawn is that of the expenditure on the hon. Ministers. A sum of Rs. 4,67,420 has been provided for them. The figure 420 is significant. (*Laughter*) (An hon. Member: But they should not practise it with the public.) Another burden that they are going to impose upon the people is that of the Deputy Ministers. They have caught this "disease" from some other large States in India. They do not seem to realize that ours is a small and poor State and cannot afford to incur such heavy expenditure. As a matter of fact, the Government should not do such things and abuse the term *lok raj*. There appears to be no 'lok raj' here. In fact, it is the brown bureaucracy that controls the affairs of this State. The Ministers have thrown the past promises and pledges to the winds. For instance, a certain percentage was reserved in the services for rural people due to their backwardness and lack of educational facilities etc., By construing the words of the constitution in a particular way, they have wriggled out of their pledges. Now the percentage of the rural persons in services has been gradually decreasing and these have been monopolized by the urban people.

Another useless expenditure is that connected with the Public Relations Department. In this connection, I would like to point out that this department was created by the British rulers in India in order to get recruits for the army during the War. Now there appears to be no necessity of keeping a Director, two Deputy Directors, nine Public Relations Officers at the headquarters and thirteen in the districts. Whatever publicity the Government wishes

[Sardar Shamsher Singh]

to do can be easily carried out by means of radio broadcasting. In cities, people hear every announcement made by the Government on the radio. As a matter of fact what is needed is that the Government should instal radio sets in the villages. The Panchayats can contribute half the cost price and the recurring expenditure. I think this useless expenditure on this Department can be avoided.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Speaker : Before I call upon any other hon. Member to express his views, I want to announce the names of the hon. Members, whom this House has elected for serving on the Public Accounts Committee. They are—

1. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal,
2. Shri Balwant Rai Tayal,
3. Shri Amir Chand Gupta,
4. Shri Chuni Lal
5. Sardar Gurdial Singh (Kartarpur),
6. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade,
7. Shri Ram Kishan,
8. Shri Sri Chand and
9. Sardar Wazir Singh.

These nine gentlemen have been elected as Members of the Public Accounts Committee. I have the power of appointing one of these Members as Chairman of the Committee and in exercise of that power, I appoint Shri Kedar Nath Saigal to that office.

Shri Nand Lal (Karnal) : (*Hindi*). Sir, this is the fifth day since the Budget has been under discussion and most of the hon. Members who have expressed their views about it regarded it their duty to attack the services. The Members of the Opposition went to the extent of saying that the services did no work because they knew that promotions were obtained with the help of recommendations and not on the basis of work. Some of my hon. Friends made wholesale condemnation of the services. In my opinion such thing discourage the services.

In the first place, we should see whether the members of the services are traitors to this State. Secondly, we have to examine their way of working. As regards the first test, I take pride in saying that our services are better than those in most of the other countries. At the time of partition of the country, the communal forces were

very strong. One group of people wanted to establish Jatistan and another wanted to create Khalistan. Members of the services saved our State from these disruptive forces at a very critical time. They maintained law and order in a very efficient manner. We know about the conditions which prevailed in Nepal, Burma and Indonesia under similar circumstances. What happened in Russia after the overthrow of the Czars' regime? Bloodshed and murder went on in that country from 1919 to 1925 and thousands of people lost their lives. This is an historical fact which nobody can deny.

Our services acted very honestly and efficiently and saved the country from bloodshed and disaster. It should not be forgotten that when Kashmir acceded to India; our engineers completed the construction of sixty-five miles long road from Pathankot to Jammu in a short period of three months. Three bridges had to be constructed for the completion of this road. They did this work with a full sense of patriotism and they deserve our appreciation. Recently, Shri Ashwani Kumar, who is a Superintendent of Police in our State went to Saurashtra for restoring law and order there and he succeeded in his task. We should take pride in such officers. As regards the internal administration of the State (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : If interruptions continue like this, I shall have to take serious notice of them.

Shri Nand Lal : So far as internal administration in the State is concerned, we have to examine this matter from a different angle. We have inherited this administration from the British, who had trained their officers to administer the country in a particular manner. The conditions have now changed and we want our officers to mix with the people in order to know their needs and difficulties. We shall be able to make our officers act in that manner, but it will take some time. Change in their outlook cannot be brought about all of a sudden. This has to be done by a gradual process. Moreover, how can we blame the services for not changing their outlook when we notice in this House that like members of the Opposition, our own members start criticising the Government and they forget about the party to which they belong. What can the services understand, when our own Members do not do so? Criticism is always welcome but it should be a considered and constructive criticism.

Then, Sir, it has been said that the number of Ministers is very

[Shri Nand Lal]

large and the amount of expenditure incurred on them is too heavy. Before 1949, the Governors only used to rule the provinces. Those were the days of foreign autocratic rule. Now we have got democratic Government in the country and a number of persons are required to administer different branches of the administration. The hon. Chief Minister should appoint even more Ministers if the work so demands. Democratic form of Government is always very expensive. What is the number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the West Bengal? How many Ministers are there in England and what is the number of Secretaries in America? If we compare the number of Ministers here with that in other countries, we will find that the number of our Ministers is not large. The cost of administration in other democratic countries is much higher than in our country. I admit that the mentality of our officers has not changed but it will certainly change if we cooperate with them and encourage them. Mistakes are likely to occur but these can be rectified if we point them out to the proper authorities. For example, a certain person in Karnal refused to give evidence according to the wishes of the police. His arms license was cancelled, but when this fact was brought to the notice of the authorities, they agreed to restore it. If we cooperate with our officers, we can bring about the required change and our administration will improve. There are certain matters

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Does the hon. Member want the office of Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to be honorary?

Shri Nand Lal : That is a different matter. I was submitting that there are certain things to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. I find that while a Tehsildar gets seventy rupees per month on account of horse allowance, a Naib Tehsildar gets sixty rupees and a Kanungo gets thirty five rupees only. May I know whether Kanungo's horse eats less than that of the Tehsildar? The Government should change such practices which have become quite out of date.

There is no doubt that we are bound by contracts in the matter of pay and other terms of service with regard to some of the high-paid officers and we cannot reduce their salaries or remove them

from service, but if we lower the grades of the new entrants, a considerable sum of money can be saved. The old incumbents will retire in a few years and our expenditure will gradually decrease. As regards the low-paid employees, whose dearness allowance has been increased by five rupees per mensem, I feel that this increase is too small. The Government should consider ways and means of increasing the emoluments of the low-paid employees. It was stated on behalf of the Government that special pays have been abolished, but I find that Sub Divisional Officers and Executive Engineers who have been posted in the Designs Office of Bhakra Project have been recently given special pay of one hundred rupees or fifty rupees per mensem. It is the duty of the Government to put an end to these things.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (Punjabi): Sir, while supporting the Budget as a whole I also want to look at it from the view-point of effecting economy wherever possible. I find that there is more scope for economy under this Demand than any other. It is a matter for gratification that the Government has decided to abolish special pays in the case of the posts whose salary exceeds Rs. 500/- p. m. and this announcement has been rightly hailed with applause by a majority of the members barring a few who have criticized the Government even in this matter.

The Finance Minister has explained why this cut has not been applied to the officers who formerly belonged to the Secretary of State's services. My submission in this regard is that we should not, even after the attainment of independence, look upon them as a privileged class of civil servants. The contracts which an alien Government entered into with them should not now be considered valid and binding. So far as the hope of their voluntarily surrendering their special pays is concerned, I am doubtful about it, for no one likes to forego a portion of one's emoluments.

If it is not taken as a reflection on the Governor's behaviour, I might also suggest that he should set a good example by curtailing expenditure on his establishment. The Governor's dignity is not dependent upon the strength of his establishment or high salary. It is his status which lends dignity to him. I hope he will come to the rescue of the Government at this time of financial stringency and give a lead to other high officers.

[Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon]

Besides this, I consider expenditure on Commissioner's office to be absolutely unnecessary. Its abolition was a subject of discussion even in the pre-partition days and it is now generally realized that it serves no other purpose than that of a 'post office' between the district administration and the Secretariat. By its abolition, Government can save a sum of Rs. 2,67,000 annually.

I would then make a submission to the Chief Minister to do away with the classification of Government offices into class I, II, III and IV, as a result of which the scales of superintendents, assistants, senior clerks and junior clerks are not uniform in all the offices. It serves no useful purpose. On the other hand, it operates harshly on the employees of lower offices such as that of D. C's. office etc., who have generally more work than the Secretariat staff. I know for certain that the Treasury clerks in every district do more onerous and substantial work in preparing accounts than the clerks in the Accountant-General's office. The abolition of this classification in Pakistan was hailed everywhere with jubilation.

Now I have to say something with regard to the administration of the border areas. Prior to the partition, normal methods of administration were all right for the border districts, but with the **change** of environments a radical change in them is called for. The districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepore have owing to their proximity to the border become the haunts of criminals, thieves dacoits, assassins and smugglers and I am definitely of the view that the old methods of administration and maintaining of law **and order** will not help the Government in the changed circumstances. To make myself clear, I cite an instance. A Sub-Inspector of Police was murdered in Attari and the assassins managed to escape. They were caught but ultimately were acquitted by the High Court. Later on they were shot dead by the Police. But following the old, hackneyed practice the Government decided to visit reprisals on the innocent people of villages such as Attari, Attalgarh and Dande by imposing on their inhabitants a punitive fine. The people of these three villages are mostly educated and advanced people and thousands of rupees were realized from them, in spite of repeated representations, the punitive police post posted there has not been removed. Dande is inhabited by Harijans who are occupancy tenants and are quite well-to do.

Sir, it is time the Government realized that these border districts have a special importance of their own and should be treated as privileged areas and earmarked for special schemes and projects of rural development aiming at the moral, material, social and economic uplift of the people so that a reorientation in the habits of the people inhabiting them may be brought about and they might give up their tendency to evil ways and their next generation may at any rate be free from the pernicious influence of these bad habits. In every country, border people are treated with special consideration. I regret to have to point out that nothing so far has come out of Government's promise to provide greater irrigation facilities to these areas in the form of tube-wells. On the other hand, the rate of abiana has been enhanced. When we talk to the Ministers on a personal level, they hold out to us hopes of its reduction, but it appears that nothing is proposed to be done. Even at the risk of being considered selfish in certain quarters, I would suggest that if the rate of abiana cannot for the present be reduced in the whole State, the Government should immediately sanction this reduction in the case of border districts in view of their special circumstances. These districts should for the same reasons be exempted from land revenue also.

Shri Maru Singh Malik (Sampla) (Hindi): Sir, from the speeches delivered on this demand in the House, it has become clear that an overwhelming majority of Members is of the opinion that all is not well with the administration of this State. If the Ministers sitting on the Treasury Benches have any regard for the Members of this House, after hearing their well-expressed views they would have no other alternative but to alter and modify the allocation of expenditure under this Demand. If no heed is paid to their suggestions with regard to the distribution of expenditure under this Demand, they should be as good as their words and try to throw out this Budget. In my opinion, a good amount of money can be saved from the expenditure proposed for general administration.

I am referring to the Civil Supplies Department. We can save Rs. 35 lakhs by abolishing this department which is not only unnecessary but is also lowering the morals of the people. It has made people dishonest. It is not possible to get anything according

[Shri Maru Singh Malik]

to one's requirement by fair means. If we have to get anything through this department, we must overstate our demand because it is not possible to get an honest deal from it.

Some time back I required two bags of cement for carrying out some repairs to my house and I applied for it to the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member not to refer to the Civil Supplies Department but to confine his discussion to the General Administration. (Voices: This department is included in the General Administration).

Shri Maru Singh Malik: Sir, I was saying that I applied for two bags of cement for repairs to my house but the pity of it was that this department sanctioned only one bag. I wondered why my minimum demand was curtailed by 50%. I had no idea of profit making by selling it in the black market. The officials incharge told me that if I wanted two bags of cement I would have applied for ten. On hearing this I made a firm resolve that I would never apply, for anything, to the Civil Supplies Department. I am, under these circumstances, constrained to remark that if the Government wants to raise the morals of the people, it must abolish the Civil Supplies Department atonce.

Minister for Civil Supplies : Atonce! why not gradually.

Shri Maru Singh Malik: Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to the fact that when they did not occupy the ministerial benches they were of the opinion that there should not be more than five ministers in this State. But it appears that on seeing the glamour of the office they have suddenly changed their views and have silently acquiesced in having eight Ministers. Besides this there will be Deputy Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries.....

Minister for Local Government : But where are they ?

Shri Maru Singh Malik : The hon. Minister should know that a provision for them has been made in the Budget. Moreover, Sir, effort has been made to delude the public into thinking that the

Ministers will not draw travelling allowance and there will be considerable saving to the State exchequer. But this is not the case. The Ministers have been provided with motor cars and the gross expenditure in this connection amounts to Rs. 1,10,000 whereas the total travelling allowance of the Ministers previously used to be 99,816. The cost of motor cars amounts to Rs. 2,34,500 and in addition to this the cost of petrol, tyres, tubes, rental of garages etc., and other miscellaneous expenditure aggregates to Rs. 52,740. Besides this, pay of drivers, mechanics and assistants together with their allowances etc., comes to Rs. 21,810/-. These motor cars will become unserviceable after two or three years and the public money which has been spent on the purchase of these cars will go waste.

Besides this, Sir, in connection with the Grow-More-Food Scheme, the sum of Rs. 50,000 has been provided in the Budget for killing monkeys and jackals who damage the crops. If this amount had been utilised on some productive venture it would have yielded better results. Moreover, jeeps have been provided to the officers of the Agriculture Department for making tours in villages. I would submit that the development of agriculture cannot be brought about by providing jeeps but the Government should devote more attention towards providing irrigation facilities to the zamindars. It is the water supply that can convert deserts and waste lands in the State into fertile and cultivable land. Moreover, when the Ministers go on tour in villages they sometimes create dissensions among different classes of people in the rural areas. The result of it is that they get involved in litigation. This results in the waste of time and money of poor zamindars who undertake repeated journeys to attend long drawn-out hearings and the cumulative effect of their absence is that the work of agriculture remains neglected.

Captain Ranjit Singh: (Hissar Sadr) (*Hindi*): Sir, the Demand for General Administration is being discussed in this House for the last two days. I do not object to the hon. Members on the Opposition Benches saying that we on the Government Benches should get less time to speak in this House but I would certainly object to their saying this that we should discuss the matters in our party meetings instead of discussing them in this House. Sir, you will recollect that on the day when this Demand was taken up

[Captain Ranjit Singh]

for discussion, you asked the Leader of the Opposition to initiate the debate but I was sorely disappointed when he said that he had nothing to say about it.

Mr. Speaker : I do not expect this kind of thing from the hon. Member and I would ask him not to pass such remarks.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Then, Sir, another hon. Member of the Opposition had to initiate the debate. It appears that the Leader of the Opposition is getting training for making constructive suggestions to the Government. I can say that the members of the Opposition only indulge in criticism of the Government for the mere sake of criticism

Sardar Ajmer Singh: I do not expect from an old parliamentarian to talk in such a manner. With your permission Sir, I will request my hon. Friend Shri Ranjit Singh to withdraw his remarks. His words that the Leader of the Opposition does not know how to speak constitute a reflection on him.

Mr. Speaker : When I have myself objected to these remarks the question of asking the hon. Member to withdraw them does not arise.

Captain Ranjit Singh: Sir, administration is the touch-stone of every Government. If the administration is good, the Government is good and vice versa. So long as the general administration of a country is not of a high standard it cannot progress in any sphere of life whether social, economic or educational. I admit that there has never been such a thing as a perfect system of administration; perfection is rare in human affairs. Errors and mistakes are bound to creep in even in the most fool-proof systems. But, my submission is that so far as is humanly possible, efforts must be made to give the people a good, efficient and just administration.

Now, Sir, I want to point out to you some of the causes which have tended to mar the efficiency of our administration. All the defects in our administrative machinery are the outcome of the confused and muddle headed policies of this Government. It has failed conspicuously to chalk out a clear-cut policy for the guidance of its officers. In all, the four burning problems that face this

State today, namely, the construction of the new Capital, the construction of the Bhakra and Nangal Dam the Consolidation of Holdings and the enhanced rate of abiana the Government has created a mess by its halting and half hearted policy. Our Friends sitting on the Treasury Benches who during the elections were never tired of assuring the poor peasants of reverting to the previous rate of abiana are today sitting complacently without feeling in the least any obligation to honour their commitments.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The rate of abiana was increased by the Cabinet of which the hon. Member was a Minister.

Captian Kanjit Singh : Sir, it is just like catching a gentleman for the offence of a thief who has managed to escape. The decision to enhance the rate of abiana was taken by the Government of which I was not a Minister. It was the present Chief Minister and the present Irrigation Minister during whose tenure of office this increase in abiana was made and this blame is being unnecessarily hurled on us, because we had to implement it. The way this Government has tackled the question of abiana shows the confusion that is prevailing in the minds of its Ministers. The money provided for expenditure on general administration this year represents an increase of Rs. 8 lakhs over the provision made last year. On the one hand the Government is increasing expenditure on administration and on the other hand it says that it has not got enough funds for providing relief to the scarcity affected people. Though this is a small increase in expenditure, yet it shows the mentality of the Government.

Then, Sir, on page 360 of the Schedule of New Expenditure, you will find a provision of Rs. 30,000/- for the repairs of Circuit House at Amritsar. I wonder if anybody besides the Governor uses that Circuit House. The people who are now occupying the Treasury Benches and the high ranking Government officers are in my opinion not fit to stay in such palatial buildings. Sir, permit me to read out a note in this connection:—

The condition of the Circuit House, Amritsar has improved as a result of special repairs carried out during the year 1948—1949 at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,960 but it is still not fit for use by His Excellency the Governor and other high ranking officers, who

[Captain Ranjit Singh]

visit Amritsar from time to time. It is, therefore proposed to carry out additional special repairs to this building as well as certain electric and sanitary installations therein at an estimated cost of about Rs. 30,000. This amount is, therefore, required for expenditure during 1952—1953.

These buildings were originally meant for the convenience of persons of a different type. So far as our Minister for Development is concerned, I can say from personal knowledge that he is made of such stern stuff that he can pass a night on bags of cotton seeds. The whole of this scheme has been made with a view to pleasing the Governor. This expenditure is absolutely unnecessary and the amount provided therefor can easily be saved.

Then, Sir, we do not need so many officers as have been sanctioned for various departments. The chief cause of the bloated strength of officers is that the services of all those who opted for India had to be accepted by us.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I would tell you how the General Administration in our State causes inconvenience and harassment to the general public. The British Government having noticed the strength which the movement of freedom was gaining, took up control over the General Administration in its own hands. It left very little powers in the hands of the representatives of the public. The work of General Administration which was in the hands of the Central Government was entrusted by it to the members of the covenanted services.

Then, Sir, we find that dyarchy is still in existence in our country. I am surprised to note that we are not authorised to vote the provision of Rs. 39540/- on account of the salary and other expenditure of the Governor, though we can discuss it. We are obliged to pass it without making any alteration in it. I request the hon. Ministers to have full powers of administration in their hands, since they are representatives of the masses. They should not depend completely upon their secretaries and under secretaries. If they are capable enough to run the administration they do not need the help of secretaries and under-secretaries. These posts can be safely reduced. The work of each Department can be carried out by a Superintendent. If this is done, we shall be able to save a large amount. What is actually being done is that in every Department there is a secretary,

an under-secretary and a number of other officers. Most of them are superfluous.

Then, Sir, we find that the Deputy Commissioner of a District, who has the feeling that the Chief Minister cannot harm him has his own way of working. Whenever the hon. Chief Minister happens to visit his District, he is generally able to please him with words.

The amount of Rs 84,000/- i.e. Rs 7000/- per month on account of the salary of the Financial Commissioners is very large. As a matter of fact these officers are running the whole administration. The administration should be in the hands of the representatives of the public and not in the hands of I. C. S. officers.

In the year 1947, just after partition, our Prime Minister said that our administration was like a black blanket. He promised that its blackness would be removed within a short time. But we find that it has not been done. The undesirable elements are still there. The hon. Ministers should take the public into their confidence. They should hear what the public says, ponder over its suggestions and try to run the administration on those lines. They should in no case depend upon the present administrative machinery, which was set up by the British Government to suppress the Indian masses. I, therefore, request the hon. Ministers to go about without the aid of the Police or any other officers, because nobody will entertain any evil intention about them if they are to listen to the poor and remove their grievances. They should try to judge things independently and not have blind faith in what the Deputy Commissioners say. The other day, the Deputy Commissioner Ferozeore banned the staging of a drama on a flimsy excuse. Similarly, the Deputy Commissioner Amritsar banned the staging of a drama in a Political Conference. The people are being shabbily treated by these officers.

The Deputy Commissioner is considered to be all power ful in a District. He has his final say in every department in the District. I can say with full confidence that if this dyarchy is ended and the hon. Ministers assume full control over the administration, conditions in the Punjab will definitely improve.

Now, Sir, I shall tell you some facts regarding the running of

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]

administration in the districts. On the 2nd June, 1952, Shri Shiv Dayal of village Sheranwala gave a beating to Shri Bhani Ram his tenants and tied him to a tree. No action has been taken by the Police against the landlord. Similarly, at village Jandwala, one Bhima Shah beat his tenants

Sari Prabodh Chandra : Sir, as these cases are being tried in Courts, he cannot refer to them on the floor of this House.

Mr Speaker : Please do not interrupt. Let the hon. Member proceed with his speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, interruptions also form part of the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker: I want to tell the hon. Member that interruptions are not a part of the proceedings. I must again request the hon. Members to observe silence. For their guidance I may quote an extract from 'May's Parliamentary Practice':—

Members are not to disturb a Member who is speaking, by hissing exclamation or other interruption.

I really do not appreciate the practice that is being followed in this House, namely, that of interrupting other Members while they are speaking. The hon. Members should hear patiently the Member who is speaking and if any Member has got any objection or wants to ask a question he should wait till the speech is finished. Hereafter, he can ask questions through the Chair. I shall request the hon. Members to please observe these Rules.

Chief Minister : (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Sir, some of the hon. Members have, in the course of discussion on the General Administration, said certain things which are irrelevant. In my reply I will have to ignore such things. If an hon. Member has used a certain type of language it will not be proper to reply him in the same language. There are certain matters which have been brought to the notice of the Government. It is not possible to bring those matters before the House which are sub-judice but the Government will take notice of the views of the hon. Members and try to do justice. At

this moment I feel that it is the desire of most of the hon. Members and they have stated it in so many words that the administration should be efficient, honest and sympathetic. I assure the House that we also entertain similar feelings and we will try our utmost to tone up the administration.

In the first place, it has been stated that the expenditure on General Administration is excessive in view of the poor state of our finances, and that there is a great disparity between the salaries of big officers and the lower employees of the Government. In this connection I would like to place before the House the point of view of the Government.

The policy which the Government desires to enforce strictly is that without impairing efficiency of administration, economy in expenditure should be effected as far as possible. I admit that there is a disparity between the salaries of big officers and the subordinate staff of the Government. These facts cannot be ignored. Moreover why should we ignore them at all? I must, on the other hand, make it clear that the policy of the Government is to remove such disparity (*cheers*). It is our earnest desire to bring about changes in the administration so as to make it very efficient. We are no less impatient in this connection and I assure the House that we will leave no stone unturned to improve the administration.

One of my hon. Friends from Ludhiana went to the extent of saying that there was no need even for this august House. In this connection, my submission is that we should try to be a little more careful at the time of expressing our views because people expect from us a high sense of responsibility.

There are certain things which we are bound to do because we cannot go against the agreements into which we entered at the time when the Britishers left the country. It is our moral duty to fulfil the obligations which we undertook with open eyes at the time of our signing such agreements. I am sorry that we are unable to treat them as scraps of paper. Those, who do so can never be trusted. No body can have a common truck with an opportunist.

We have chalked out a programme for ourselves and we will follow that programme unflinchingly. We have before us certain ideals to inspire us. We do not seek guidance from outside like some

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of our hon. Friends who draw their inspiration from other countries. I have no grudge against them for the ideas that they may have. They are quite welcome to have them. But what pains me is that they derive their strength from foreign countries, I cannot understand why they subordinate the interests of their own country to those of a foreign country.

I may, therefore, make it clear to the House that we are not going to back out of those covenants or agreements which have been entered into by the Central Government with the former Secretary of State for India and the services. We will certainly honour them. I know that some of my hon. Friends do not see eye to eye with me on this point. They do not feel happy over such agreements with services, whose past record they are reluctant to forget.

But my submission is that with the dawn of Independence, a definite change has also come over them. It is my firm belief that whenever we ask the services, in all sincerity and in the best interests of the State, to do something and impress upon them the desirability of doing that, they do cheerfully respond and I am confident they are prepared to go the whole hog with us in that matter despite these covenants and the powers enjoyed by them under the same. (*Cheers*).

I hope that in view of our cordial attitude towards them, they would not be found wanting at any time in making any sacrifice consistent with their dignity, that is demanded of them in the best interests of the State. Now we have a large number of incumbents who served the British also. I have worked with them. I have always thought and told them also that during the British regime they were under bondage and, therefore, in a state of helplessness, they had to carry out the policy of the previous Government. Now that India is free, they are no longer under any such restrictions and therefore there is no reason why they should lag behind any one in the cause of service to the people. I hope my point of view will be appreciated by the House as well as the services. I trust that both sides will act their part well.

Now, Sir, before I proceed with my observations with regard to other items, I would like to make a mention of one particular

expenditure which has been the target of carping criticism by hon. Friends. That item is the salary of a Minister.

You are well aware, Sir, that a Minister draws a salary of Rs. 1500/- p. m. This also is common knowledge that the Ministers voluntarily accepted a cut of ten per cent on their salaries. This means that a Minister has already reduced his salary by Rs. 150/- p. m. In other words this leaves him Rs. 1350/- p. m. Now if you deduct Rs. 111/- p. m. as income tax from this amount, then it will be seen that a Minister gets Rs. 1149/- p. m. in all. (*Interruption*) I quite understand the ardent desire of my hon. Friends to reduce the expenditure and I respect that desire but I would ask them just to give a little thought as to whether a Minister's salary can reasonably admit of any reduction under the present circumstances. In this connection I am prepared to make a sporting offer to them and I assure them that I will stand by it. That offer is this. Let a committee comprising five Members of this House be constituted to investigate whether or not the items of expenditure incurred by a Minister in running his household and other domestic affairs are commensurate with the salary he gets. If the verdict of the committee is against us I assure them that we will abide by it. (*Cheers*). Now for the information of my hon. Friends, I will just mention a few items of a Minister's expenditure. I am not out to make a fighting speech, but I do desire that things should be seen in their proper perspective and not criticised merely for the sake of criticism. Well, Sir, a Minister is expected to make various subscriptions, including party subscription and others, amounting to Rs. 150/- p. m. I am not exaggerating the figure. Sometimes the amount even exceeds Rs. 150/- but the average per mensem comes to Rs. 150/- . Then he has to employ two domestic servants, a bearer and a cook. It is common knowledge that the salary and the cost of food and clothes come to Rs. 100/- per mensem per servant. In other words, he has to spend Rs. 200/- p. m. on his servants. Supposing he keeps one servant and makes him his factotum, then you will dub him as a parsimonious and cruel man who takes too much work from his one servant. So a Minister has to keep two servants.

Then my hon. Friends of progressive views, who plead for the insurance of the workers and the unemployed will agree with me that a Minister will not be guilty of squandering money if he gets himself

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insured for a sum of Rs. twenty or twenty five thousand by paying a premium of Rs. 100/- p. m. So he generally gets an insurance policy and incurs an expenditure of Rs. 100/- on this account.

Then, Sir, a Minister is not expected to be practising celibacy (*Laughter*). He has a wife and a family to support. He has to spend on the education of his children. Taking the average number of a family to be five, he is expected to undergo expenses to the tune of Rs. 100/- per mensem for educating his children. The matter does not stop here. He has to spend and that too legitimately, on various other items. My hon. Friends who had to be put under detention, will remember that they used to get a sum of Rs. 16/- p. m. as pocket money to defray minor expenses. Naturally the members of the family of a Minister would also like to have some money of this kind. You can make an allowance of Rs. 30/- p. m. for this purpose.

Beside this nobody can say that a Minister is always immune from illness or that no member of his family or any relation staying with him can fall ill. Illness in a family is only natural. So the hon. Members will not grudge Rs. 25/- p. m. for this purpose.

Then, Sir, like other people a Minister has also got to get his clothes washed by a washerman. Will an expenditure of twenty rupees per mensem be too high for that purpose? In addition to this, there are occasions of happiness as well as of sorrow in every family. The Ministers are family-men and are not immune from these things. A number of guests arrive on such occasions and I don't think it will be deemed improper if an expenditure of fifty rupees per month is set apart on that account. Another fact to which I am going to refer is known to everybody very well. I do not exaggerate, when I say that on an average a Minister has to entertain five guests every day. When that is the case, I would like to enquire from those hon. Friends, who frequently visit Davicos and other restaurants, if it costs less than three rupees to entertain one person to tea or dinner. At that rate the expenditure for five guests will amount to fifteen rupees a day or Rs. 450 p. m. Then, Sir, the Ministers have to think about so many problems and do a great deal of mental work. May I enquire from those hon. Friends sitting on the Opposition Benches, who claim to be most progressive.

if in the country of their ideology there was any provision for the recreation of their Stalins and other Ministers?

Sardar Chanan Singh : Mao, who is the President of Chinese Republic, gets only Rs. 600 p.m.

Chief Minister: Without examining details, my Friends say that the President of the Chinese Republic gets Rs. 600 p.m. In this connection, I want to make an offer to the House. I believe in nationalization, and if hon. Members so desire, my colleagues as well as I am prepared to nationalize all our expenditure. In that case we will not charge even six pies as our salary. If the House is prepared to undertake responsibility for all the essential needs of the Ministers, I am prepared to work without any salary. Not only I but my colleagues too are prepared for it and make this offer to the House.

Sardar Chanan Singh: We are prepared to accept this offer.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Has the hon. Chief Minister consulted his colleagues?

Chief Minister : I know that all my colleagues are in full agreement with every word of what I have said. Not only we, even the members of the Legislature are prepared to forego their salaries and allowances, if responsibility for all their needs is accepted by the State.

I was submitting, Sir, that if expenditure was allowed for fruits and milk, it will easily come to Rs. 125 per month. Every Minister has got a family and if an average family is taken to consist of five members, the items of expenditure referred to by me can not be regarded as very high. The hon. Members will be surprised to know that the total of all these items of expenditure comes to Rs. 1265. My progressive Friends would concede that everybody is entitled to some recreation after a day's work. Do the Ministers need no recreation? Incidentally, there is no smoker in the Cabinet. If I were to enquire from my hon. Friend Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, he would require at least two rupees per day for cigarettes and hon. Shri Nand Lal would support his demand. I shall not mention several other items which are regarded essential by some people. I have not included any unnecessary item of expenditure, while giving these details.

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Do we not need food and clothing for ourselves and our families? All these things should be considered by the hon. Members when they criticise the salaries of Ministers. I do not mean to say that we do not wish to reduce expenditure. I repeat that if the State undertakes to provide our needs, we would be prepared to forego our salaries in toto. There can, however, never be an end to an argument. I know that all my attempts to convince the members of the Opposition are likely to prove futile. If the Opposition is convinced, it will no longer remain the Opposition.

With regard to the complaint about the number of Ministers, I wish to submit that there was more than enough work for every Minister.

In the course of his speech, one of my hon. Friends remarked that he did not know what work was done by the Commissioners. At the same time he said that their method of working was not good. How can a person who does not know the function of an officer, criticise his work? I am convinced that all the Ministers and officers have in hand more work than necessary. If all the hon. Members, including those in the Opposition, co-operate with us, we shall be able to achieve better results. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand is an experienced lawyer and he knows the art of putting things in a clever manner. He said that the salary of the Members of the Legislature should be reduced. Another hon. Member supported that suggestion. I, however, do not agree with this view. I feel that in order to enable the hon. Members to move about in their constituencies more freely, so that they might know the difficulties and needs of the people, there was need of more facilities for travelling. I know that my hon. Friends, who are staying in the Grand Hotel have to pay Rs 11 to Rs. 13 a day. How can they afford to incur all this expenditure with an allowance of only Rs. 300 per mensem? They have naturally got to spend from their own pockets.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : On a point of order, Sir. Through you, I want to request the Chief Minister

Chief Minister : Sir, I don't give way.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Sir I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : Please don't interrupt when he is not giving way.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : I want to request the Chief Minister.....

Chief Minister : Sir I seek your protection.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Lady Member to resume her seat.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : On a point of order Sir.

Mr. Speaker : All right. What is your point of order?

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Through you, Sir, I want to ask the Chief Minister as to what provision has been made in the Budget for providing any facilities to the Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker : This is no point of order.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Please resume your seat.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Please sit down. Order, order! Will the Chief Minister please proceed with his speech ?

Chief Minister : I was saying, Sir, that most of the Members while at Simla put up at the Grand Hotel and have to incur other expenses also during their stay here which together come to Rs. 11/- or Rs. 12/- per diem. In the circumstances, C. A. of Rs. 300/- per mensem is inadequate for them. I have no hesitation in saying that they should be paid more, so that they may be able to tour their constituencies freely and act as a liaison between the people and the Government.

So far as the acts of omission or commission of the previous Government are concerned, I don't think it is proper to make us a scapegoat for their doings or misdoings. I am saying this because some members have referred to the fate of the cases popularly known as the Steel Scandal Cases. What we have done in these two or three months is before you. Judge us by it alone (*Interruptions*)

Then, many an hon. Member has pointed out that there still

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exists a wide gulf between the services and the general mass of the people and has complained that the officers do not give the public proper treatment and that they are lacking in sympathetic understanding of the needs of the people.

I admit the vital importance of this matter. The need for a closer affinity in the attitude and view-points of the public and the services and kinship of feelings and thoughts between them cannot be overemphasized. It is in the interests of the Government itself that they should come as near to one another as possible. To bring them closer is the task that we shall always keep before us. We have already taken a step in this direction by establishing District Public Relations Committees membership of which consists of all the M. L. A's and M. L. C's of the district concerned irrespective of their party affiliations and the heads of various branches of administration of the district. These Committees will meet once a month and if necessary more than once for an exchange of views and consideration of suggestions to improve the tone of administration. In this matter we have not made any distinction on party basis because we regard those sitting opposite as our brethren sharing with us in common the objective of service of the people. (*Cheers*)

Some friends have complained about the high-handedness and excesses committed by the Police in the course of investigations and prosecution of innocent persons. My submission in this regard, Sir, is that we are doing our best to bring the services and the people closer to one another. As soon as the desired contact is established between them, such complaints will disappear.

With regard to the objection taken by some Members to the continuance of the old administrative machinery, I want to make it clear that it was on the advice of the respected leader of the nation that we had decided to accept and retain the services of the personnel of the British days in the post-independence era. In spite of what some members think of them, I have no hesitation in saying that we and our party are responsible to the people for every action, good or bad, of every Government official. (*Cheers*) We can't escape this responsibility, we can't run away from it. We own them, we shall continue to own them; for to disown them would be like severing an important limb of the body. No Government, no business house, no

bank, no firm can function successfully unless it has full faith in its employees. So long as we have faith in our officers, so long as we entrust them with powers and responsibilities, it is our foremost duty to see that they enjoy freedom of action and command respect and prestige. Of course, when we lose faith in an officer and find that he is not faithfully implementing the policies laid down by us, we shall in no time divest him of all powers and responsibilities. It is possible that due to certain difficulties and handicaps it may not be feasible to dispense with his services, yet we shall certainly remove him from the district in which he is serving, put him in the Secretariat and give him the work which involves least responsibility. He will remain there as a useless part of the machinery.

The Government would not like to incur expenditure on account of the salary of such an officer and also to invest him with powers. Suppose I were to appoint as Deputy Commissioner of a district an officer who should not be appointed in that district, the result would be that he would exercise his power in such a way as to spoil the atmosphere of that place. I would not mind paying him his salary but I will never tolerate that any officer should vitiate the atmosphere of the district under his charge.

An objection has been raised that the officers do not conduct investigations properly and treat the people in a high-handed manner. There are many eminent lawyers in the House who are fully aware of the fact that certain powers are conferred upon the officers of the Government under the Acts. In exercise of such powers they conduct enquiries and in case they behave illegally, their conduct can be called into question in courts of law by preferring appeals against their orders. For instance, if any offence is committed in a village and complaint is that the police are not making a proper investigation, then I am prepared to associate the Members of this House with that investigation if they like. But I may tell them that investigation officer would be the officer-in-charge and not the M. L. A's. The M. L. A's associated with the investigation would only be in a position to give their own views on the subject.

I have made the policy of the Government clear. We have made it clear to our officers that we shall never allow any interference in the work of administration because it encourages inefficiency and other incidental evils. Some of my

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hon. Friends remarked that inefficiency in the administration is mainly due to the acceptance of 'sifarish' by the officers. I admit that it is so. I have asked the officers that they should not attach any importance to such 'sifarish' or approach and have assured them that if they work honestly and independently they will have the full support of this Government. I would request the hon. Members to spare their time and help us in all the investigations so that the police may not be in a position to show high-handedness in its treatment towards the people and the Executive Officers may not do any injustice to them.

The hon. Members are also aware that Anti-corruption Committees have been set up in every district. These investigate all complaints of corruption. Criticism has been levelled against the Government that these committees do not function properly and the cases are often shelved by them. The Government have now decided to form panel of M. L.-A's and M. L. C's. in each district. Out of this panel two hon. Members will be associated with every stage of enquiry into cases of corruption. I have no doubt that investigation on these lines will satisfy the object under view. (At this stage Shri Ranjit Singh rose to say something)

Mr. Speaker : May I request the hon. Member to resume his seat. The hon. Chief Minister is on his legs-therefore, no question can be asked unless he gives way.

Shri Ranjit Singh : Sir, I wanted to have certain information.

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry I cannot permit you as the Chief Minister does not give why. Order, Order, Sit down please ! (Captain Ranjit Singh kept standing)

Chief Minister : Sir, all this is being done to create closer contact between the people and the administration so that there should not be anything amiss.

Then, Sir, it has been said that there should be a separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. I may inform the House that we have to separate them. Though would take some time, yet it must come. In the meantime I have told every officer belonging to the Judiciary that he must regard himself as being independent and do his duty without any fear of the police. Besides this, I am in full agreement with my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram and others who said

that the present system of administration requires a complete overhauling. This is the policy of the Government and we are very keen to change the set-up as early as possible and in due course of time my hon. Friends would feel surprised to witness a complete change in the system of administration. I also propose to hand over a large part of the administrative work to the Panchayats and to invest them with more powers.

There are some people who hold the view that the members of the Panchayats will waste their time in mutual bickerings and wranglings and display the worst type of factious spirit. They are, therefore, doubtful of any good coming out of entrusting more powers to them. This argument to my mind is analogous to the one which the British used to adduce to deny Swaraj to us. As the hon. Members are aware, they used to say that if they left Indians to themselves Hindus and Muslims would go on quarrelling and the result would be chaos. I want to make it clear, Sir, that no such argument can dissuade us from trying the experiment of Panchayat Raj in this State, and we are prepared to run the risk of losing any amount of money for its sake.

I admit, Sir, that the Heads of Departments have been given power to spend money up to a certain amount to meet emergent needs and I am not at all convinced that these powers should be taken away from them. If they are asked to take the prior sanction of the Government for every little expenditure they would not be able to run the offices under them properly because owing to the unavoidable delay in the receipt of the necessary sanction, work will suffer. We do not want to concentrate all financial powers in our own hands as the Britishers used to do. A little independence to the Heads of Departments in this matter is not unjustified.

Now a few words with regard to the prevalence of corruption in the administration. The hon. Members should not forget that we are as anxious as anybody else to purify the administration of all these evils but if they are so deep-rooted as to take time to be exterminated it is not our fault. We are extremely eager to decentralise administration and to entrust more powers to the Panchayats. Correct leadership is the crying need of the hour. I wish every village to have a good leader who can lead it to progress

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and prosperity and in whom the people can repose implicit faith. Progress, like peace, is indivisible. The interests of all the people living in this State are closely linked. All of us shall swim or sink together. Reforms shall, and must, come but gradually and progressively. Everybody is anxious to have them as early as possible and we are not behind anybody in this matter. The whole picture of the Panchayat Raj and the steps that we propose to establish it will soon come before you for your consideration.

So far as the slackness, delay, inefficiency and red-tapism in the Government offices are concerned, it will be recalled that I had taken some steps to remove them in the time of my pre-elections Ministry, but unfortunately I could not continue to devote myself to such administrative reforms for very long. I may inform the Members that the Committee for suggesting such changes in the office procedure as may result in the elimination of avoidable delays and red-tapism is still functioning and will be able to complete its labours very shortly. I hope that its report will help us to infuse new vigour and promptness into the working of the administrative machinery and people would no longer complain of inordinate delays in the disposal of their cases.

My hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh has referred to another important reform that has not so far been introduced. I mean, the abolition of the invidious distinctions which are operating so harshly against people known as the 'Criminal Tribes'. We shall see to it that no person is discriminated against in any matter simply because he happens to be born of parents who were responsible for committing any crimes. There will be no longer any hereditary criminals. A person will become a criminal if he commits crime. I want to assure the House that after the 31st August, there will be no 'Criminal Tribes'. The people who are at present known as such will no more be discriminated against. Their children will receive education along with the children of others.

Master Gurbanta Singh has also complained that the decision to give one post of Under Secretary to a Harijan has not so far been put into effect. I am sorry, I have not been able to find anything on record. As regards giving the 15% share in services to the Harijans I can assure him that the Government would not try to side-track this decision.

Now, Sir, I have to refer to certain kinds of intoxicants. I am reminded of a couplet :

नरा पिला के गिराना तो सब को आता है ।
मज्जा तो जब है कि गिरते को थाम ले सकी ।
नशा पिला के गिराना तो सब को आता है ।
मज्जा तो जब है कि गिरते को थाम ले सकी ॥

The effects of intoxication whether from drinking or from some other infatuation are always bad. About the stimulation resulting from intoxicants I cannot say much because I have no experience of it, but I am aware of the evil effects of drinking and the incalculable harm that this evil has caused to many families. My Government contemplates taking strong measures to check illicit distillation in order to save people from ruin. I hope the hon. Members will co-operate with the Government in this matter. But there is another intoxication in which some people in this State are indulging and that is the evil of communalism. It is our firm determination to deal with this evil first of all, because it has greater potentialities of doing harm than the intoxication resulting from liquor. We are anxious to eradicate this evil root and branch. I would request the hon. Speaker to set up a Committee of five Members of this House and entrust it with the duties of giving me within two months a list of Government officials who indulge in communalism and I shall see that a deterrent punishment is visited upon them. My submission to the Friends opposite is that it is no use making general allegations. Let them bring to my notice specific cases of this nature and I shall take stern action against the persons involved. I would request them to offer constructive suggestions by all means but to desist from destructive activities which are calculated to do harm to the work that the Government is doing for the progress and advancement of the State.

I must tell my hon. Friends sitting opposite that I strongly condemn any attempt to fan the fire of communalism among the services in this State.

Then, Sir, I wish to remind those hon. Friends who demanded that more sects of Harijans belonging to the Sikh community should be given the privileges laid down in the Constitution, that it was at the request of their leaders that 4 sects among the Scheduled Caste

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Sikhs were given the same privileges as were given to other Harijans. This was done according to their demand. Moreover, their leaders had given a definite promise that they would not ask for more. In my opinion they had not done the right thing. They introduced untouchability amongst the Sikhs also. Untouchability is a curse in Hindu religion and by making this demand the Sikhs also introduced it among the Sikhs. Sikh religion never allowed untouchability. When a Hindu Scheduled Caste became a Muslim, he no longer remained an untouchable. Similar was the case with the Sikhs. A Scheduled Caste no longer remained an un-touchable as soon as he embraced Sikhism. Now, my hon. Friends are trying to introduce this evil among the Sikhs by these means. I have great respect for the Sikh Dharma. I can say with pride that I have more respect for the Sikh Gurus than even most of the Sikhs.

My hon. Friend referred to article 340 of the Constitution under which the President can appoint a commission to investigate the condition of backward classes. I request my hon. Friends sitting opposite to enquire from their leaders, why they pressed for the inclusion of only 4 sects. In my opinion, they took a wrong step. The result is that now, my hon. Friends say that the Government is not following this provision of the Constitution. I tell them, that the Government is duty-bound to look after the interests of every national, to whatever community or class he may belong. It makes no difference to the Government whether he is a Hindu, a Muslim, a Jew, a Parsi, a Sikh or a Christian. The Government has to uplift every national of India. It does not matter whether that individual is a Scheduled Caste or not. In the Constitution it is laid down that :--

The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons, as he thinks fit, to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India and the difficulties etc. etc.

What I want to point out to my hon. Friends is that it is not laid down there that the difficulties of only Hindu backward classes will be looked into and not those of backward classes among other communities.

According to our Constitution, it is necessary that all backward classes be helped. In my opinion no person or class should be given extra privileges or rights. However, my Government is trying to help

the members of all backward classes in the State in order to raise them socially and economically. We are not going to tolerate poverty and backwardness among these classes.

Then, Sir, is it not necessary to remove the distinction between Zamindars and non-zamindars and between ruralites and urbanites? Our country is now free from foreign bondage. These distinctions had been introduced by the foreign rulers as these suited them. This issue should not have been raised now.

Shri Sri Chand : We have never raised the question of Jats and non-Jats.

Chief Minister : Now, Sir, those days are gone when one could keep others under his thumb by force. Now, nobody can make a tenant work for him by compulsion. The Government will no longer tolerate this kind of oppression. Moreover, it does not want the tenants to be terrorised. The Government does not wish to be unnecessarily harsh but it cannot allow any one to take the law in his own hands. My Government is determined to protect the rights of tenants and Harijans in all circumstances and it is also determined to do every thing possible for their betterment.

Now, Sir, I want to tell those persons who want to take the law into their hands that they would not be allowed to do so. In spite of the existence of certain defects in the administration, the Government will not tolerate lawlessness in the State.

I, therefore, appeal to the Opposition to co-operate with the Government, at least in such matters in which they do not differ from it. As regards other matters, in which they differ from the Government, I request them to point out to the Government any defect which they may find in its policy.

Sir, we are often asked by the Communists to help them in spreading Communism and in doing propaganda in their favour, because they consider Communism to be the only way in which the poor and the down-trodden can be uplifted. But I make bold to say that so long as violence is associated with Communism, no person, however big or powerful, can escape the law. If the aim is to help the poor and raise their standard of living by peaceful methods, I am one with those who make efforts to do so. But on the other hand if

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the methods are improper, the Government cannot allow these in any manner.

Before I resume my seat I wish to draw the attention of the House towards those forces which are at work in the State. We have to face them boldly. They consist of those who try to exploit the difficulties of the poor. I must emphatically say that such persons are not true friends. With these observations I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Before I call upon the next speaker, I wish to point out that Shrimati Shanno Devi has insulted the Chair. When I asked her to resume her seat four times, she did not do so. I can quote dozens of rulings to show that her conduct was not in accordance with parliamentary procedure and practice. I have been lenient towards her because of her sex. Now I hope she will admit that her conduct was not proper, otherwise this matter will pain me. Similarly, the conduct of Captain Ranjit Singh and Chaudhri Sri Chand in making interruptions was also objectionable. The rules do not permit the asking of questions unless the member speaking gives way. A member can rise only on a point of order. But I find that the points of order on which Shrimati Shanno Devi wanted to rise were in fact no points of order at all.

This is disregard of the authority of the Chair and I could take action but I did not do so, and I hope I shall not have to take such a serious step. All the interruptions were neither called for nor orderly. I must, therefore, warn the hon. Members that I will not tolerate any interruptions.

(At this stage Shri Sri Chand rose to make a personal explanation but he was not allowed to do so.)

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Please sit down. I do not want any personal explanation.

Captain Ranjit Singh : All right, Sir: I will sit down thinking that even personal explanations are not allowed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker : No, please sit down.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of Order, Sir. When any reference is made to a Member of the House, under the rules he entitled to rise on a point of personal explanation, and I think, Sir, it should be allowed.

Mr. Speaker : I do not want to be advised by you.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : What is your personal explanation, please?

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Sir, with due respect, I wish to tell you that I have been a Member of this House for the last 12 years and on no occasion have I been prevented from speaking whenever I wanted to do so. I am perfectly in my senses. I wanted to obtain certain information from the Chief Minister while he was speaking a few minutes ago and I do not think, Sir, that I made any mistake.

Mr. Speaker : Your explanation does not carry any conviction. On the other hand you have added insult to injury.

Minister for Public Works : She should withdraw her words.

Mr. Speaker : Let her not withdraw.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : (Sambhalka) (*Hindi*):—Sir, I have listened to only a portion of the hon. Chief Minister's speech. I wish to say something in connection with the points raised by him. In the first place the question of top heavy administration, which has been discussed and criticized by most of the hon. Members, has been replied to by the Chief Minister. I am not at all satisfied with his arguments because I feel that some saving can be effected by abolishing the posts of Commissioners, reducing the number of Financial Commissioners and amalgamating certain departments. For example departments of Assistant Custodians and District Rent Officers and District Food Controllers and District Organisers, Civil Supplies and Rationing can be amalgamated. No suggestion

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has been made by any hon. Member in this connection. I feel that during the course of discussion on the General Administration the Government should be urged to amalgamate certain departments. Most of the hon. Members have said so and the Government should see that saving can be effected by reducing expenditure on the top heavy administration.

The second thing to which the attention of the House needs to be drawn is the condition of the poor people in the State. It is a matter of pleasure that the hon. Chief Minister has declared that the policy of the Government is to work for the uplift of the poor people. As far as I can see the real problem that faces us today is that of 'haves' and 'have-not's.' On the one side there are persons who own lands, businesses or industries and have all possible sources of income. On the other side there are those who have no lands of their own, who have no capital and who always live from hand to mouth. It is one thing to say that the whole of the administration exists for the good of the people, but it is quite another thing to work for that end. As a matter of fact generally the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The Community Projects and the Bhakra and Nangal schemes may be useful to those who have lands and some capital with them. But what about the 'have-not's'? May I know what the Government is doing for them?

Well, Sir, what I want to drive at is this. Just as loans have been advanced to our displaced persons, similarly those indigent persons like the Harijans and landless tenants, who do not possess any capital or land, should be given loans with which they could earn their living and become useful citizens of the State. I, therefore, suggest that Government would be well advised to set up a fund of rupees fifty lakhs for this purpose. This fund should be created on the same lines as the item of rupees 22 lakhs called the 'Special Deposit Account', and out of this fund, as I have already stated, loans should be advanced to the Harijans. These may not be realized from them but should be adjusted out of this fund. At present loans cannot be granted to them because there is no surety of their recovery. In fact they do not possess any property or land against which the loans could be given or from which these may be recovered in the event of non-payment of the same.

Naturally the question would arise as to why they do not form themselves into co-operative societies and thus get the facilities of loans. But the difficulty is that there is a lacuna in the Co-operative Societies Act. It is laid down in the Act that if 19 out of 20 shareholders of a co-operative society fail to pay their debts, the recovery should be made from the twentieth shareholder, if he is affluent enough and has the capacity to pay them. In other words, the liability of a member of a co-operative society under the present Act is unlimited. This is the greatest flaw and this should be removed by amending the Act. The liability of a member should be limited and he should be responsible for the payment of the debt or loan advanced to him.

As a matter of fact I suggested to the Harijans to form co-operative societies and to get loans with which they could improve their lot and earn an honourable living. But they were reluctant to do so in view of the present lacuna in the Co-operative Societies Act. But before any amendment is made in the said Act, I would request the Government that, as already suggested by me, it should make a provision in the Budget and create a fund on the lines of the 'Special Deposit Account' for purposes of advancing loans to the Harijans and artisans who are desirous of earning their livelihood honourably but who for lack of means or wherewithal are unable to do so. The unrealized loans can be adjusted against this Fund.

Then, Sir, it has been said by my hon. Friends that the Administration of the State is wanting in efficiency and that it requires overhauling. I submit that they should suggest concrete measures to be adopted for reforming the administration, so that we may also discuss them and consider whether they can really bring about the desired reformation in it. But let me point out the state of affairs now prevailing in the State with regard to the general administration. I admit that there are certain officers who can really be called gems but the majority of the officers consists of those who are pro-rich i.e. pro-vested-interests. I can quote many examples in support of my point. I can say from my own experience that whenever there is a clash of interests between the rich and the poor a majority of the officers, irrespective of the fact whether they belong to the Police, Revenue or any other department, invariably

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side with the former and trample under foot the legitimate rights of the latter. Although it is the policy of the Government that even-handed justice should be administered to one and all without distinction, yet when the time for its enforcement comes, the officers get things done according to their own sweet will and pleasure and do favours to the rich people alone. In this connection I may point out one thing which goes to the credit of the Unionist Government. Although it made enactments more for the benefit of one class of people than for the other classes, yet when it came to the enforcement of those laws, it appointed officers who could be depended upon to enforce them properly. But what do we find here? The sympathies of the officers in whom powers have been vested for the enforcement of certain beneficial laws, are with the rich people and they do not care a fig for the poor. In this connection I would like to quote an extract from the 'Harijan', which reads thus :—

India's agriculture suffers because India's administration is not carried on, on the principle of the service of the most backward and poor first. Besides the delays of red-tapism, it neglects the poor cultivator and practically compels him to go to the money-lender or the selfish, the tyrants and the influential ones of his own class. Not on account of any deliberate callousness of heart or calculated policy, but instinctively our caste conscious and class-minded officers attend to the needs of the influential classes and disregard those of the backward ones. The latter are suppressed at every step.

It is crystal clear that these class-minded officers instinctively do injustice to the poor and shower favours on the rich. I would, therefore, suggest that whereas Government takes action against officers guilty of corruption or nepotism, it should also make it a point to inflict severe punishment on those officers who injure the interests of the poor and try to benefit the rich at the cost of the poor. If this is done, I am sure, administration can be reformed to a considerable extent.

Mr. Speaker : Since the time of the hon. Member is over. I call upon Shri Som Dutt Bahri to make his speech.

Shri Som Dutt Bahri (Simla) (Hindi) : Mr Speaker, I may point out at the very outset that the administration of a country depends on two essential factors, namely, the condition of the services

and the state of finances. Now, so far as the higher class of services of the Punjab is concerned, they are *par excellence*. Their ability and efficiency are undoubted and they are second to none in their administrative capabilities when compared with their opposite numbers in other States of India. But as regards subordinate services, I feel that they suffer from a lack of discipline and sense of responsibility. These defects have become prominent because of the lack of proper supervision on the part of higher or controlling officers and also due to the fact that the subordinate clerks are not being properly paid. They cannot make their both ends meet. The salaries and dearness allowance paid by the Government are not enough to enable them to support their families. Naturally when a subordinate official is half starved and is unable to afford the education of his children and meet other demands of his family, he will pay little attention to his work or at the most he will do things perfunctorily. It is also natural that under these circumstances, the efficiency of the subordinate officials will become conspicuous by its absence.

Although the Government has endeavoured to alleviate the distress of the low-paid officials by enhancing their allowance by Rs. 5/- p. m., yet this sum is too small to meet their requirements in view of the mounting cost of living. As a matter of fact when a person stands in need of one loaf of bread to satisfy the pangs of hunger, how can one morsel give him satisfaction? Obviously a hungry man cannot attend to his duties with undivided devotion. I am, therefore, of the opinion that the Government would be well-advised to increase the allowances of the low-paid officials by at least Rs. 10/- p. m. But if due to financial stringency it finds it difficult to enhance it to Rs. 10/- as suggested by me, then it should increase it to Rs. 7/8/- p. m. this year and then make it Rs. 10/- next year. This is necessary because I feel and reiterate that dissatisfied and disgruntled services cannot run the administration efficiently. I, therefore, request the Government to give its careful and active consideration to this suggestion.

Now so far as the question of finances of our State is concerned, it is common knowledge that Punjab is already tax ridden and it is not advisable to impose any more taxes on the people. But I want

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to suggest one thing in this connection and that is this. I understand that an immense leakage takes place in the collection of these taxes. If Government takes adequate measures to stop that, I am sure, it will go a long way to add to the finances of the State. Thus a good deal of income will accrue to the Government and that can be utilised for the benefit of the people.

Well, Sir, in view of my belonging to the legal profession, I am concerned more with the administration of justice than anything else. It is, therefore, my duty to make a few observations with regard to this subject.

Now so far as justice is concerned, it should be cheap and at the same time its dispensation should be speedy. The difficulty is that we hear more of this wholesome principle than we see its actual application in our courts. The present state of affairs is that ordinarily the final decision of a case, be it civil or criminal in the lower courts takes from six to eighteen months. The condition in the High Court is still more discouraging. The second appeals of 1948 are still going on in the High Court. Not only this. Even the first appeals of 1948 are still pending. It is obvious that despite the lapse of a period of four to five years, the High Court is still in heavy arrears of work. The reason for the delay in the disposal of cases is perhaps due to the small number of the hon. Judges. At present the strength of the Judges is seven and under law the number can be raised to nine. I would request the Government to give its careful attention to the matter and enhance the number of Judges.

Next to this comes the question of separation of executive from the judiciary. The hon. Chief Minister has explained the position of the Government on this subject, but it is necessary to take some immediate step for bringing about the separation. This experiment is being tried in Madras and our neighbouring State, Pepsu. Why should it not be tried in our State too?

Sardar Fartap Singh : (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, instead of expressing my views about the various items of expenditure under the demand for General Administration, I want to say a few words about

some of the observations made by the hon. Chief Minister. He stated that the Government could not reduce the salaries of the members of the former covenanted services, as they had a contract with the Secretary of State and the Government of India was bound by the terms of that contract. Such consideration's cannot stand in the way of the interests of the masses. Do we not see what is happening in countries in the Middle East? Are those countries honouring treaties which they had made with England? Promises and contracts should not be allowed to retard the progress of the State. If the salaries of these high paid officers are not reduced, it will not be easy to give less pay to the members of the provincial services. If the Prime Minister of India do not permit us to reduce the salaries of big officers, we should pass a resolution in this House that we want to reduce these.

Then, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister said that he could not pull or with less salary. He gave figures to prove his contention. May I know if he has ever cared to find out how the low-paid government servants make their both ends meet? Has he ever collected facts and figures about their expenditure? The low-paid employees have got children, they fall ill at times, guests also come and stay with them and they have also got to educate their children. Has the hon. Chief Minister ever made an estimate of their essential expenditure? Do they not require more money to satisfy their needs? Of course, unlike the hon. Chief Minister, the poor people do not regard insurance as one of their bare necessities. With regard to the question of having eight Ministers, he stated that there was sufficient work for all of them. In the united Punjab, which comprised twenty-nine districts there were only five or six Ministers. Have we got more work now when our State consists of only twelve districts? I admit that some of our Ministers are very able persons, but that does not mean that they should be paid such high salaries. The Deputy Ministers also are proposed to be appointed, not on account of heavy work, but to keep a few persons pleased. Whenever the Chief Minister finds that some Members are thinking of deserting his party, he offers them Deputy Ministerships.

A large number of Members expressed their views on this question, but I am sorry that the hon. Chief Minister did not refer to it in the course of his speech. Speaking on communalism he said that he was determined to put an end to it. In order to achieve that objective, we should follow the principles laid down by Gandhiji. He

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offered a blank cheque to the Muslim League to prevent the fragmentation of the country. Acting on the same principle, our Government should offer a blank cheque to the minorities. Communalism cannot be ended by doing away with parity in the Cabinet and appointing more Ministers from one community. If a few more Ministers had been taken from the minority community on the basis of ability and not on any other ground, nobody could have levelled the charge of communalism against that selection. The method adopted by our Chief Minister is not the proper method of ending communalism. It is no use advancing theories with regard to such matters. The Government should act in a practical manner. The minority communities should be treated generously so that they should have nothing to complain about.

Then, Sir, with regard to the tenants, may I know if that is the only class of poor people in the State? Many of the zamindars are poorer than the tenants. We have full sympathy with the tenants, but we want our Government to follow the same policy in the case of all classes of poor people. Along with the tenants other poor people should also be helped so that their condition might improve. The Government has purposely created differences between the landlords and the tenants as a vote catching device.

Minister for Development : The law providing relief to the tenants affects the big landlords only.

Sardar Partap Singh : There are no big landlords in the Punjab. The land owners in this State have very petty holdings and a majority of them are very poor. The Government should apply the same policy to all classes of poor people. In this connection I am reminded of an English poem in which the poet says:—

Men may come and men may go
But I go on for ever,

The same is the case with our Ministers. In our State, the Ministers have changed a number of times, but the method of administration has remained unchanged. The same old methods are being followed today as were adopted by our British rulers.

Sardar Rajinder Singh Gyani (Rupar) (Punjabi): Sir, although I feel that after the Chief Minister's speech much good will not

come out of what I have to say, yet I would like to make a few suggestions with regard to the general administration. To my mind this subject can be viewed from two aspects. Firstly, is the administration good or is there any possibility of its becoming so after the provision that has been made for it in this Budget? The second aspect relates to expenditure. Is it too excessive, reasonable or too little? Is it being properly allocated to the various branches of the administration?

Looking at it from these two angles of vision I find, Sir, that barring a few items, there is hardly any change in the expenditure. It continues to be the same as it used to be in the British days. The increase in staff and expenditure that the War had occasioned continues to be untouched. On the other hand, there has been further expansion since the end of the War. The administrative machinery also continues unaltered. With what face shall we appear before the people whom at the time of elections we had given a promise of improving the tone and overhauling the machinery of administration? This Budget has come to us as a sore disappointment because it contains no proposal to re-model the administrative set-up. It does not embody even the first step towards this end.

Only a short while ago, the Chief Minister was pleased to remark that his Government was more desirous than the opposition of the betterment and well-being of the people of this State. If I say that no provision has been made in the Budget with a view to improving the lot of the low-paid staff, I am reminded of the proposal to increase the Dearness Allowance by Rs. 5/- of those drawing a pay below Rs. 100/- p.m. But my submission is that this does not go even an inch towards improving their standard of living. Haven't these clerks and peons got to feed their children? Are they not eager to give them good clothes to wear and proper education to make their way in life? With their present income, can the children of small officials such as patwaris, constables, teachers etc., have any such opportunity? This small increase in the dearness allowance is a poor consolation to them.

As regards the unnecessarily bloated strength of the staff, it appears to me that the entire work of preparation of the Budget is entrusted to the heads of the departments whose first concern is not to allow their establishment to be reduced even by one post. They

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present the Ministers with such confusing statements and facts and figures that the latter are left with the impression that there is absolutely no scope for economy or retrenchment in any Department. The case of the Civil Supplies Department affords a good instance of this kind of manoeuvring. Sugar rationing has been ended. Cloth rationing does not exist. But the Department has not reduced its strength even by one post. Then, even a layman is aware of the duplication and overlapping of work prevalent in this Department. In every district headquarters there are at least three offices under this department, namely, the office of the District Organizer, Civil Supplies, the office of the District Food Controller and the Rationing office. I am sure that if the officers in charge of these offices are removed and the whole work is entrusted to a few Inspectors under the general supervision and control of the Deputy Commissioner, it would make for a good deal of saving and economy and the efficiency would also increase.

Now while mentioning these Inspectors, I am reminded of their counterparts in other Departments. I sometimes pity the lot of a poor shop-keeper who has almost daily to attend to so many Inspectors, such as Civil Supplies Inspector, Weights and Measures Inspector, Cloth Inspector, Foodgrains Inspector, Income Tax Inspector and Shop Inspector; one coming after the other to check his accounts, leaving him little time to attend to his customers. (*laughter*).

Now a few words about the Secretariat staff. Posts of officers which were created decades ago continue to be on the list of the sanctioned strength though justification for them has long since ceased to exist and their incumbents have no work to do. Then, Sir, the scales of pay of the officers even 4½ years after the achievement of independence continue to be as high as ever. The example set by the Pepsu Government in presenting the Secretaries of the former Faridkot Government at the time of its merger, with the alternative of accepting Rs. 1,200 P. M. instead of Rs. 2,000 or leaving the jobs is well worth emulating by the Government of this State which has a deficit Budget and numerous liabilities to discharge. If due to certain handicaps, our Government was not in a position to take such drastic steps, at least the first step should have been taken to win the confidence of the masses by embodying in the Budget the other suggestions I have made.

Shri Gopi Chand : (Pundri) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak today. Before this I have been rising in my seat every day but unfortunately I could not catch your eye.

Many hon. Members have already expressed their views on the General Administration and every one of them has complained that the people are not getting adequate return for the money spent in this behalf. I am grieved to find that efficiency in the administration has deteriorated so much that if any illiterate zamindar knocks at the door of any Government office, not to talk of removing his grievance, nobody is prepared even to listen to him. I may narrate to the House a recent happening in my district, to show the efficiency of the Civil Supplies Department. A respectable man of the office of the District Congress Committee who was illiterate came to me and asked me to verify his application for the supply of cement which was required for the repairs of the school building. As I had seen the school and was satisfied with the genuineness of the demand, I verified his application. He took that application to the office of the District Organiser, Civil Supplies. At first the clerks wanted to put him off somehow or other but as he persisted in his demand to see the officer-in-charge, the clerks told him that the application required verification from the Inspector. He, however, fulfilled that formality also but when he went to the office again, he was surprised to hear from the clerks that cement was out of stock. This is the state of affairs in the Civil Supplies Department.

Then, Sir, I would submit that 95 per cent of the population of the Punjab lives in the villages. The village people are very backward. Though the Government derives a large portion of its income from the rural areas yet the villages present a sorry spectacle. If these people make a demand for the opening of schools or dispensaries or for the construction of roads in villages, the Government pleads its inability for lack of funds. On the other hand if we go to cities we find that all such amenities are available. I have no hesitation in saying that in my constituency there is not a single high school. The need of the hour is that the people should be given maximum facilities and that the salaries of high officers

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should be scaled down to a reasonable level. The District Food Controller's office should be amalgamated with other district offices of the Civil Supplies Department.

The villagers continue to groan under crushing poverty and the Government has not done anything to improve their lot. The Government should see that its finances flow in productive channels and are not squandered away in the manner in which as it was done under the British regime. Besides this, there is a great scandal about the Grow-More-Food campaign. It is said that though the Government have spent lakhs of rupees on this scheme yet not even 50 per. cent of the amount has been given to the deserving people. The jeeps which have been provided at the Government expense to the Agriculture Officers are being misused. For instance, the jeep given to the Agriculture Officer, Karnal is now being used by the Consolidation Officers. Apart from this I would like to point out that retired persons have been re-employed in Government departments when they already get big pensions. This deprives the unemployed persons of the opportunity of getting jobs. I would suggest that a retired officer should be re-employed only if a duly qualified and competent officer is not available. What I want to drive at is that determined efforts should be made to effect economy in the expenditure on General Administration.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (Panjabi)

Sir, the Chief Minister has made a convincing speech today which has not only satisfied the critics of the ministerial party but has also gone home to the Opposition (Voices from the Opposition: It was all sentimental). Yes! my hon. Friends have retorted that it was a sentimental speech. But do they not know that no man can live without sentiments? Life is not worth living without sentiments. It is sentiments that bring about revolution (*Inqilab*) in the country. It is sentiments that help and enable ordinary persons to make supreme sacrifices. It is sentiments that create rebellious feelings in man to fight against oppression and tyranny. I cannot help saying that the hon. Members on the Opposition Benches after hearing the speech of the Chief Minister would have at least appreciated his art of speak-

ing though I am sure that they will never bother to understand his point of view. After all my hon. Friends should know that we have inherited this system of administration from the British Government and it is not possible to change it overnight. If we want to do away with the present system soon, that can be possible only through a desperate bloody revolution which we would never like. The second best way which will no doubt take some time is to bring about progressive and stable administration in the State by moulding public opinion. We are continuing our best endeavours to reform the system steadily and have succeeded to a considerable extent. Some of my hon. Friends have directed criticism against the Government on the ground that certain provisions which used to be made in the Budget for the Civil Supplies Department and other departments previously have not been made in the Budget this time. But I may inform them that the Budget is prepared not every month but after a year. If the Government has not been able to provide money on an adequate scale under some head this time it will do so in the next year. It does not behove my hon. Friends to level criticism without understanding the whole position.

An hon. Friend has pointed out that conflicts between zamindars and the tenants are on the increase and we are not doing much to solve this problem. He has further expressed his opinion that with the half measures that we are taking to stop the ejection of tenants we shall not be able to win their sympathies and get their votes in future. Sir, the question before us is not that of vote-catching because who knows what will happen to this State by the time of the next elections. But we are concerned with the amelioration and betterment of the lot of the tenants with whom is linked the prosperity of our State. To say that we want to set zamindars and the tenants at loggerheads with each other is the height of untruth. On the other hand what is worrying us more is the desirability of settling their relations amicably and building up an atmosphere of goodwill and concord with a view to paving the way for the progress of this State.

A Friend has complained that the tenants are being shot down by the landlords. What else can be expected from these representatives of vested interests and feudalism? Shri Mool Chand has pointed out that the officers are biased in favour of the zamindars and are not giving a fair deal to the tenants. He is, perhaps, right in

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saying this because after all these officers are the same old bureaucrats whom the British rulers, who always allied with the feudal interest, had employed. How could they be expected to appreciate the cause of the tenants? They are after all creatures of the old system which was marked for its oppression of the poor.

An hon. Member : They are obeying your orders.

Minister for Development : If I were to have my way I would finish all of them in one day. Sir, we are passing through abnormal times and our Government is faced with extraordinary problems. Instead of indulging in senseless criticism at the expansion of the Cabinet, the Members of this House should make a resolute decision to work for the advancement of the Punjab. I have to point out with regret that the hon. Members sitting opposite, instead of making any useful criticism of the policies of the Government, find it convenient to make general and vague statements. If they want the Government to take any step in any matter they should draw its pointed attention to it and convince it of the necessity of taking such a step. They should bring concrete cases of malpractices to the notice of the Government. Such specific instances will help us to improve the administration and eradicate corruption. The task before us is to overhaul the whole administrative machinery which has come to us as a legacy of the British rule. For this purpose a change in rules and regulations governing the terms of service of the Government officials is necessary, but it cannot be brought about overnight. We are not oblivious of the fact that certain officers have bad reputation but we cannot dispense with their services unless the rules are changed. For instance, I would be glad if the rule of compulsory retirement is so modified as to give the Government powers to retire an officer after even a few years of service. We are prepared to set up a committee consisting of the Members of this House to suggest changes, modifications and adaptations in the rules of various departments such as the Agriculture Department, the Forest Department and so on and make constructive suggestions to improve them. This method would be much better than that of indulging in repeated criticism. This is my appeal to the friends sitting on the opposite benches.

We are anxious to remove distrust that is dominating their minds at present. We want them to have a complete faith in our bonafides. It is said that—

जिन्न निकल जांदा है, जन नही निकलदा
 जिन्न निवल जांदा है, जेन नही निवलदा ।

If my Friends do not take it ill, I might remind them that as compared with those who were supporters of the Unionist Government in the united Punjab, we can be trusted more to have the interests of the people of the State at heart. We have to rid the State of the evils of favouritism, nepotism and jobbery which were rampant under the British rule.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, is it relevant ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not for you to give a ruling. Please do not interrupt

Minister for Development : My hon. Friend says that I am not relevant. He forgets that the points raised after the Chief Minister's speech are to be replied to.

We shall not allow the landlords to kill their tenants. In this connection we propose to cancel their arms licences. We shall not allow the unarmed tenants to be crushed. We shall leave no stone unturned to protect their lives and safeguard their interests. Let every hon. Member watch the situation in his constituency. It will not be difficult for him to do so since there may be at the most 120 villages in each Member's constituency. The moment the hon. Members become alert, watchful and vigilant, just as the thieves run away at the slightest sound, the corrupt officers will give up their bad habits and become upright. The very knowledge that the hon. Members are keeping a watch on the doings of such officers will act as a deterrent and the tone of administration will improve. Then they will not have to make long speeches and criticise the administrative machinery. Let us all make a resolve to dedicate our lives to the cause of purification of public life in this State.

Sir, I hoped that the hon. Members of the Opposition would be glad to know from the hon. Chief Minister that the Government proposed to hand over a number of administrative functions to the Panchayats. The Government is very keen to revive the Panchayats, rule, which existed in our glorious past.

Sir, the Panchayats may not be able to work well in the

[Minister for Development]

beginning and their work may not be up to the expectations of the public but I feel that there is no harm in trying the experiment. I hope that in the end it will succeed. Then, Sir, some of my hon. Friends have made general complaint that corruption still prevails in the administration. They have not been able to point out even a single definite case. They have failed to name a single Patwari, Kanungo or Naib Tehsildar or any other official of the Revenue Department whom they considered to be corrupt. It is no use making vague complaints. Sir, if this is the standard of their work for the people, then I can say with confidence, that they will not be able to return even with their present strength of 26 members after the next elections. Their strength next time may be less than even six. They should note that the public is very much enlightened and their tactics based on false propaganda will not succeed.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar : (Nuh) (*Hindi*) Sir, I concede that it is necessary to have an efficient and honest administration, if a country is to progress. Like the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Minister for Revenue I am also of the view that our Government is bound to fulfil the terms of contract entered into with services during British rule. But that does not mean that our hon. Ministers should not have the power to supervise the day to day work of these officers. I remember a Punjabi couplet:—

ਸਾਂ ਫਿਰੇ ਫੰਡਿਆਂ ਬਡ਼ੈਨ ਨੂੰ, ਤੇ ਧੀ ਫਿਰੇ ਨਰੁ ਬਡ਼ੈਨ ਨੂੰ ।
ਮਾਂ ਫਿਰੇ ਡੰਡੀਆਂ ਘੜਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ, ਤੇ ਧੀ ਫਿਰੇ ਨੱਕ ਵਢਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ ।

Sir, I am pained to tell the House about the horrible condition prevailing in some parts of District Gurgaon. The worst of it is that the officers of that district have not cared to give a true picture of the condition of those areas to the Government. A large number of cattle are dying there every day. I was frightened to see a large number of cows lying dead when I last toured those areas. There is an acute shortage of fodder. I am sorry to inform the Government that local officers were not in the least moved at the sight of famished cattle, a large number of whom died every day.

These officers are not in the least faithful to the public or to the Government. They are faithful only to themselves. Our hon. Chief Minister and other hon. Ministers go on pampering these officers.

Then, Sir, Our hon. Chief Minister has asked us to quote definite instances of those officers who might have failed to do their duty. I have placed before him facts relating to the Gurgooan District. How long can we afford to tolerate such things ?

Then, Sir, the condition of those refugees who have settled in that District is very miserable. Most of them have not been able to find any source of regular income up to this time. Similarly, the Muslims residing in that District are not feeling comfortable. If five years after partition and their continued stay in this country some of them start thinking of migrating from this country, does it not mean that there is something wrong with the state of affairs? The fact is that they do not regard their lives and honour to be safe. Even up to this day they have not been able to get back their land. For instance, some Muslims of minor age applied 18 times to get back their lands, but till now, their requests have not been heeded to. I hope the hon. Chief Minister will give his attention to this particular case.

Then, Sir, there is an area in this District through which no Muslim can dare to pass without incurring the risk of life. Lawlessness is still prevailing there. I call that area as 'Yagistan'. Sir, does it not reveal the inefficiency of the administration? I therefore request the hon. Chief Minister and hon. Minister for Revenue and Development to devote their attention to the state of affairs prevailing in that District and try to improve the General Administration in the State. I fear that if this state of affairs is allowed to continue, the number of one particular section of the Opposition in this House is bound to increase to more than six after the next elections.

Shri Ram Sarup : (Butana) (*Hindi*). Sir, I am thankful to you that after all you have been kind enough to give me an opportunity of giving expression to my views before the House. For the last five days the hon. Members have been discussing the Budget and I also wish to say something about General Administration.

When we examine this Budget the first thing that strikes us is the fact that there is no change in the old and discredited policy of the Government. If we are to work for the good of the State of Punjab, we must change our outlook. I am puzzled when I look at the

[Shri Ram Sarup]

various items in the Budget. The expenditure on certain items can easily be dispensed with while provision should be made for certain other important items liberally. So far as General Administration is concerned, I am at a loss to understand why patwaris, kanungos, peons and teachers, who are the persons upon whom the real burden of work falls, are paid starvation wages, while those who do no work are given fat salaries. If the low-paid employees, under such conditions, fall into the temptation of accepting bribes, it is no fault of theirs. The hon. Chief Minister has remarked that a sum of rupees one and a half thousands, which is being paid to a Minister is hardly sufficient to make both ends meet. May I ask whether a patwari or any other low-paid employee of the State has not got the same claims upon the finances of the State? Does he not put in the same amount of work? I challenge the Government to prove that the lower officials are more corrupt than the higher ones. I know of instances where the higher officers ordered their subordinates to fill in posts according to their wishes but the lower officials refused to indulge in any such favouritism at their instance. I can quote instances to show that in some cases even the Ministers who had been approached asked their subordinates to favour some persons. What I wish to drive at is that the expenditure that is being incurred by way of salaries of the high officers is a burden on the exchequer. Why go far to seek examples of this nature? The estimated expenditure on the hon. Speaker is rupees eighteen thousand and on his Secretary it is rupees thirteen thousand seven hundred and forty. Similar is the case with other high officers. But the state of affairs is this that people have to stand outside the Chamber because more visitors' tickets are issued than the number of seats in the visitors' gallery of the Assembly. Why should it be so?

Sir, my submission is that we should always plan our Budget in such a way that more expenditure is incurred for the benefit of the man in the street. Those people who have no food to eat and no clothes to wear should never be ignored. Instead of making a provision for the appointment of Deputy Ministers, the Government should have sanctioned more money for the uplift of the poor. In my opinion the Government could easily have effected economy in certain spheres and spent the amount thus saved on the poor people in the State. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members would have missed something if they had not listened to this last speech. It has become a tradition in this House to have such an opportunity at the end of the day (*Laughter*). Anyhow, about twenty six speakers took part in the discussion on General Administration yesterday and seventeen to-day. I think that this was a fair number of speeches in a House consisting of one hundred and twenty-six members. The hon. Chief Minister also spoke for about an hour. I hope to give opportunity to other members also on some other day.

Mr. Speaker : Question is:

That the item of Rs. 2,07,370/- on account of A-Head of States-h-Ministers-Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100/-

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States-h-Ministers-pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000/-

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Noes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States-h-Ministers-Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100/-

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The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : Well, there is another cut motion. Perhaps the Opposition Party will not press for a division. Of course, I cannot deny them this right.

Question is :

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420/- on account of A-Head of States-h-Ministers-Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 1 0/-

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Noes have it". This opinion was challenged and division was claimed. Mr. Speaker, after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was, declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States-h-Ministers-pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir, we claim a regular division.

Mr. Speaker : When you have already seen that your cut motions have been defeated by an overwhelming majority, you should not ask for a division.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

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The motion was, declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : I may inform the House that some Members of the Opposition told me definitely in my Office that they would not press for a division but they are now pressing for it on every item. It is, therefore, clear that the Opposition has not respected the assurance given by them.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

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The motion was, declared lost.

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That the item of Rs. 5,67,420 on account of A-Head of States-h-Ministers-pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal: Sir, why don't you count the votes of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: That is actually what they want. I am constrained to remark that they have hurt the dignity of the House. Having seen half a dozen times that their motions are being defeated by overwhelming majorities, they are yet asking for a division on every item.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

that the item of Rs. 2,67,780 on account of E—Comissioner be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is:

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 60,00,000/-

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 59,14,770/-

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1000/-

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Re. 100/-

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

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That the demand be reduced by Re. 1/-

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The motion was lost.

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Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Re. 100/-

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1/-.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Now the question is:

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,14.770 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in course of payment for the year 1952-53 in respect of "General Administration".

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Friday, the 27th June, 1952.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

27th JUNE, 1952.

Vol. II—No. 9.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

FRIDAY, 27TH JUNE, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4, at 10 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Mr. Speaker : If the hon. Members wish to utilise the question hour for making speeches, then it may be dispensed with.

Minister for Development : Yes, Sir, we would like it to be dispensed with.

Sardar Chanan Singh : But what about the questions? We have already fallen into arrears. Many of the questions have been postponed and they are yet to be answered. If we continue to suspend the question hour, then it may not be possible to clear off the arrears.

Mr Speaker : Since the consensus of opinion in the House is in favour of making speeches, the question hour is dispensed with today.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

(Sardar Partap Singh Kalron)

Minister for Development : Sir, as required by Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Punjab for the year 1949-50 and the Audit Report, 1951, thereon.

This is being done under the instructions of the Governor.

DEMAND FOR GRANT. EDUCATION.

Minister for Education : (Shri Jagat Narain) Sir, I beg to move :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,67,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952-53 in respect of "Education".

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,67,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952-53 in respect of "Education".

Mr. Speaker : I have received notices of the following cut motions in respect of this Demand. As usual, they will be deemed to have been moved. So the main motion can be discussed along with the cut motions. I invite Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina to initiate the discussion.

1. **Sardar Achhar Singh :**
2. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** That the item of Rs. 25,10,670/- on account of A-University be reduced by Rs. 100/-
3. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :**
4. **Sardar Achhar Singh :**
5. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** That the item of Rs. 98,42,210/- on account of C-Primary be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
6. **Sardar Darshan Singh :**
7. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** That the item of Rs. 5,50,000/- on account of E - General-S-Amount transferred to the fund for the promotion of education amongst educationally backward classes be reduced by Re. 1/-.
8. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

9. **Shri Rala Ram** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
10. **Shri Abdul Ghani Dar** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
11. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
12. **Shri Benarsi Das Gupta** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
13. **Shri Chandi Ram Verma** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
14. **Rai Hari Chand** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
15. **Shri Maru Singh Malik** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
16. **Sardar Achhar Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
17. **Principal Harbhajan Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
18. **Shri Ram Kishan** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
19. **Shri Sarup Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
20. **Shri Sher Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
21. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
22. **Captain Ranjit Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
23. **Shri Balwant Rai Tayal** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
24. **Jathedar Mohan Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

25. **Shrimati Parkash Kaur :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
26. **Shri Daulat Ram Sharma :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
27. **Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
28. **Shri Kedar Nath Salgal :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
29. **Shri Jagdish Chandra :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/ .
30. **Bakhshi Partap Singh :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
31. **Shri Abhai Singh :** That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
32. **Shri Jagat Ram :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
33. **Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100/-.
34. **Shri Gorakh Nath :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
35. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
36. **Shri Mohar Singh :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100/-.
37. **Shri Ram Sarup :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
38. **Rai Raghuvir Singh :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
39. **Shri Lal Chand Prarthi :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
40. **Shri Dev Raj Anand :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 200/-.

41. **Shrimati Shanno Devi** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
42. **Sardar Gurbachan Singh Attwal** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
43. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
44. **Sardar Khem Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. nil.
45. **Sardar Ajmer Singh** :
46. **Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa** :
47. **Sardar Shamsher Singh** :
48. **Principal Iqbal Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Sardar Achhar Singh (Ajnala) (Punjabi) : Sir, our Government has provided a sum of Rs. 1,98,67,000 for education in the Budget for the year 1952-53. The total population of the Punjab is 1,26,00,000 out of which 40 lakhs are minors who are fit to be sent to schools. The total number of school-going children today is 4 lakhs. This means that the remainder of 36 lakhs is in need of education. Out of the 63 lakhs adult population, if 10% are supposed to be literate, the remaining 57 lakhs have also to be educated before we can claim universal literacy for this State. If the present pace of education continues, I think the whole of our population will not become literate even in 200 years and the ideal of universal literacy will still remain a far cry. You will be interested to know, Sir, that from 1947 to 1950 all that this Government did to promote literacy was to open 25 schools. It will not be inapt to say that after some time this Government will also give the same reply in regard to the achievement of the goal of complete literacy in this State as the Central Government after 4 years of propaganda in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign and self-sufficiency in food had given i. e., 'Produce less children and plan your families'. The time is not far off when our Government will express its inability to provide for the education of the increasing population. Therefore, Sir, I demand substantial increase in the money earmarked for education.

With regard to the Government's claim for bettering the lot of

[Sardar Achhar Singh]

vernacular teachers by giving them the new time-scales my submission is that it has, on the other hand, made matters worse. Under the old grade system, 50 per cent of the teachers used to be in the scale of pay of Rs. 50-3-80/80-4-100, 35 per cent in the grade of 105-7-140 and the remaining 15 per cent in the grade of 150-10-220. Let the Government consult its records and it will be convinced that generally it did not take more than 8 years for a teacher to be promoted from one grade to the other and another 8 years to be promoted to the third grade. Thus under the old system, in 8 years' time a vernacular teacher's basic pay reached Rs. 105/- and Rs. 150/- in another 6 years. Now let us see what is the position after the introduction of the new time-scales. According to these scales, it would take a teacher 16 years to reach the Rs. 105 limit, and another 16 years to get the third grade. Now, Sir, you can for yourself judge whether the new system has bettered or worsened the position of the vernacular teachers. Whatever advantage comes out of this scheme will be reaped by the teachers in the third grade and not those who are in the lower grades and who constitute more than 50 per cent of the teachers' strength. I would, therefore, strongly urge that the vernacular teachers should be given at least a start of Rs. 90/- in the grade of 90-5-150.

Now, Sir, I want to voice some other grievances of these teachers. Whenever they want to appear in some examination to improve their qualifications they have perforce to take about 3 or 4 months' leave and this is generally granted without pay. This causes a great hardship to them. In future, such study leave should be given with pay to all the teachers intending to appear in some university examination. I would also plead the cause of their children for free education in schools and colleges. The students in general want a reduction in fees and a diminution in the prices of books and good arrangements for lodging in hostels. It is also necessary that a candidate who fails in one subject in any examination should not be made to appear in all the subjects again. He should be permitted to take the examination only in that subject.

The system of education should be overhauled. More importance should be attached to technical education. What a pity that in our State at present the number of medical colleges is only 2 and admission to them is very hard to get while the number of applicants is very large. What progress will that country make where candidates have

to be disappointed due to their inability to get admission to technical institutions?

For the removing of unemployment, the opening of more technical colleges is very important.

As regards the teaching of history, I have to make a very important suggestion. Our history books should be re-written in such a manner that our true culture and civilization are presented in their pages in their true perspective and the spirit of nationalism is infused in the students' minds. At present, the position is that while history books are full of illustrations of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal the general impression conveyed by their contents is not calculated to promote the spirit of nationalism; on the other hand they leave the impression that the salvation of our country lies in American help and assistance. When I was a student, our text-books used to emphasize the blessings of the British rule. It appears as if today the boys and girls are taught the blessings of American help. What I mean to say, Sir, is that our text books in schools and colleges should be such as may create a feeling of hatred in the minds of boys against imperialism and describe our struggles for freedom as national wars rather than mutinies and revolutions. Even the working of the University is faulty in many respects.

Mr. Speaker : The University is not under discussion. It is an autonomous body and its affairs cannot be discussed.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of Order, Sir. The grant to the University is included in the Demand under discussion. Every legislation relating to the University is passed by this Assembly, therefore, Sir, in my opinion the working of the University can legitimately be discussed.

Sardar Achhar Singh : According to the constitution of the University, twenty per cent of the members of its Senate are elected by the registered graduates. Then, Sir, certain conditions have been prescribed for the graduates for their being entitled to vote for the election to the University Senate. Only graduates of 5 years' standing can be registered as voters. Then they have to pay Rs. 5/- initially as registration fee and Re. 1/- annually to become voters. Is this method of election to the Senate not undemocratic? For election to this Legislature, which does more important work than the Senate

[Sardar Achhar Singh]

every grown-up person is entitled to vote. As a matter of fact, every graduate should be allowed to vote.

Further, Sir, it has been found that some of the candidates for election to the Senate out of their own pockets pay the registration and annual fee of some graduates and get their votes. This practice is most undemocratic. Then, Sir, some members are nominated to the Senate. This practice should now be discontinued. Some Members may, however, be nominated from Pepsu till an independent University is established in that State. I, therefore, request the hon. Ministers to take steps to make the constitution of the University more democratic.

Then, Sir, we find that University professors are sometimes kept for only 2 to 3 students. There is an instance of a professor who is getting an honorarium of Rs. 1200/- p. m. and is called an honorary professor. He was drawing only Rs. 250/- p. m. at one time as a whole - time employee.

Then, Sir, there are only 6 representatives of colleges on the Senate. Out of these, 2 are from Technical Colleges and the remaining from the Arts Colleges in the State. The number of these representatives should be increased.

Now, Sir, I would say something about the nationalization of text books. It is necessary that the books which are nationalized should be of a very good standard and should be cheap and easily available in the market. According to the past practice, the selection of books was done by a secret board and only those books were selected which were approved by the members of that board. Now under the new scheme the Government will give contracts to the writers with the result that favouritism will prevail. There will be a scramble for 'book permits' like the permits for quotas of sugar, iron and steel and transport vehicles. This would be another source of scandal. For the present, the Government has so far nationalized only 27 books as an experimental measure. The hon. Members of this House will be surprised to learn that since November, 1950 the Government has not been able to bring these books in the market for the use of the students. These have not yet been supplied even to the teachers. It is a strange thing that students are unable to get books in spite of the fact that these have been nationalized. As a

matter of fact, the Government should not have nationalized books without making arrangements for making them available in the market without unnecessary delay. It would have been better, if it had made its own arrangement for printing them. This nationalization of books is apt to be a source of another scandal so long as the Government is not able to make its own arrangement for their printing.

I apprehend, Sir, that in the absence of a Government Printing Press, a monopoly would be given to certain individuals for the printing of books.

Mr. Speaker : It appears as though some of the hon. Members are bent upon disregarding my rulings. The hon. Members can bring in a motion for fresh legislation to amend the present University Act, if they like to do so, but I request them not to level irrelevant criticism.

Shrimati Sita Devi : (Jullundur City Sout-East) (*Hindi*): Sir, even the hon. Minister for Education and most of the other hon. Members admit that the provision for Education which has been made in the Budget presented to this House, is quite small. They also admit that this is a very important activity of the State but they have failed to provide as much money for it as was necessary. Now, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Members certain things pertaining to this Demand.

First of all, I request the hon. Minister for Education to concentrate his attention on the difficulties which the student community is facing in the State owing to the nationalization of text books. The students have not been able to get books up till now, though classification in the schools took place more than two months ago.

The, Sir, I am of the opinion, that the present system of education of our State should be immediately overhauled. This system of education was introduced by Lord Macaulay. He wanted to produce such Indian clerks for running the British administration in this country, as would always think in terms of the British. He had once said:

Let us create a class of people who should be Indians only in the

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

colour of their skin, but should be Englishmen in their tastes, fashions, likings and inclinations.

Lord Macaulay did succeed in his mission. Now, Sir, that India has attained freedom, we must without delay overhaul this system of education which suited a foreign power anxious to maintain its sway over our country. Now, the medium of our education should be our national language instead of English.

Then, Sir, the number of Arts Colleges in the State is already large. Our Government should take steps to open more Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges and other similar colleges to impart technical education to the people.

Sir, if we look at page 269 of the Budget, we will find that whereas a sum of Rs. 15,29,270 has been provided for the Arts Colleges, a sum of 2,68,920 only has been earmarked for the professional colleges. Similarly, the education of girls is such that they derive no advantage out of it. They are neither prepared fully for the responsibilities of domestic life nor for outdoor social life. Their education should be such that up to the Matriculation standard, they learn Domestic Science, Civics, Home Nursing, Economics, something of Political Science and the Constitution of India, so that when they leave the school they are in a position to discharge their duties in the domestic as well as the social sphere. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to those subjects which should be made compulsory up to the Matriculation standard. So far as girls are concerned, I don't think that collegiate education is essential for them. There are certain girls who would like to pursue their higher studies for the medical and teaching professions. Arrangements can be made for them. But most of the girl students do not generally go beyond the Matriculation and therefore their education should be thorough and complete by that stage. Mathematics and such other subjects which are of no use to them should be eliminated and instead, they should be imparted instruction in Home Nursing etc at this stage.

Last year, some statistics were supplied by the Government which showed that the number of women and men was nearly equal in the population of the State. But you will be surprised to know that there is a vast difference in the treatment meted out to the women in the matter of educational facilities. Figures are available up to 1950 only. They show that since 1917 while the number

of boys' schools and colleges has increased there is no corresponding increase in the number of girl's schools and colleges. As a matter of fact, the number of the latter has gone down. It will not be out of place to quote the figures for the year 1950 in this respect. The number of colleges up to the Degree standard for boys was twenty one while for girls it was only three. The number of high schools for boys was 335 and for girls it was thirty-seven only. The number of upper middle schools for boys was 423 while for girls it was eighty-three. The number of lower middle schools for boys was 549. There were no such schools for girls. The figures for primary schools are even more striking. The number of primary schools for boys was 3,006 while for girls it was 1,012 only. The number of industrial schools for boys was sixteen while that for girls was eight only. (Mr. Speaker Only five minutes more). Sir, it is an important subject. But anyhow I will try to state as many facts and views as possible within this short period.

In the first place, the hon. Ministers say that in opening new schools the most difficult problem that faces the Government is that of buildings. I would like to suggest that the restriction of housing school in big buildings should be removed so that new schools may be started in huts and cottages and under the trees as in the past. Another problem that has come to the forefront is that of numerous private institutions which have sprung up after the partition. The case of Subhash Academy at Jullundur has shown that such institutions are the centres of immoral practices of various kinds. In my opinion, the restrictions on private unrecognised institutions should be reimposed.

Another matter of importance in the sphere of education is that of the salaries of the teachers. I think they are too low. Something should be done to increase them so that the teachers may enjoy a dignified status in society. I don't say that economy cannot be effected within the department itself. On page 275 of the Budget, a sum of Rs. 19, 71, 900 has been provided for 1,366 teachers in the State. On the other side, there are some high officers who swallow a big morsel of the Budget. For instance, the salary of the Director is very high as compared with the low-paid employees of this department. There are two Deputy Directors for whom there appears to be no need at all.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

A sum of Rs. 25, 350 has been provided for the children of Europeans by way of scholarship. Is there any need for this when our own children are getting education under difficult conditions? I think this is an anachronism.

On page 284, a sum of Rs. 1, 76, 340 has been set apart for Adult Education in the State. In my opinion this provision is too meagre to meet the needs of such an important activity. This should be increased. As a matter of fact, it appears that our Government is pampering certain branches of our Education Department at the expense of some others which are less important. Another instance of this is that of Physical Education. Last year, there was a school for the training of physical instructors at Tara Devi where men and women were trained for a Diploma in Physical Education. This Budget provides no money for this purpose. There were other items of expenditure also which find no place in this Budget. On page 285, we find that the provision of Rs. 5,000 for the Hindustan Scouts Association which was made in the year 1951 is now missing. Similarly, no provision has been made for the "Girl Guides" this year. We are unable to ask the Punjab University to make military training compulsory. But I would strongly urge upon our Government the necessity of doing this. Military training should be made compulsory for both boys and girls.

The girls should be provided the same facilities as are available to the boys. The Government has employed five women in the Home Defence Department at Simla and they are being paid about Rs. 300 p. m. each. This expenditure can be easily curtailed and the amount of money thus saved can be utilised for making arrangements for imparting physical education in girl's schools.

Then, Sir, the figures given at page 286 of the Budget reveal that only a very small amount has been sanctioned for libraries. Since partition, I have been feeling that on account of the small number of libraries in our State we are not getting sufficient mental food in the form of books. For dissemination of knowledge, it is essential to have as many libraries as possible. I shall, therefore, request the Government to provide more money for this purpose. Until the Government brings about a revolutionary change in the system of education, our State can make no progress.

Sardar Wazir Singh : (Delhon) (*Punjabi*). Mr. Speaker, the hon. Chief Minister delivered a lengthy speech yesterday lasting for about two hours and he received repeated applause from the Government Benches. He stated in the course of his speech that in the struggle between the rich and the poor—the haves and the have-nots—which was going on in the State, the Government was on the side of the poor. On hearing that speech, I thought that if those words were given a practical shape, our ruined State would make a rapid progress; but mere words and applause can do no good. The speeches which our Ministers delivered at different places during their tours raised no hope in the hearts of the people. The people feel that many claims and promises were made before and after the election, but those had yielded no practical results.

During the discussion on the Demand for General Administration it was pointed out that not a penny had been provided for the benefit of the poor people and today again we notice that no provision has been made for the education of the illiterate masses. Since the attainment of independence, nothing has been done in this direction. The demand under discussion gives no indication of any progress being made during the current year in the sphere of education. In my opinion, it is the foremost duty of the Government to provide free primary education. It should be made compulsory. On the contrary, I find that arrangements for education have deteriorated since the country became free. I shall give facts and figures in support of my statement.

I am the Chairman of the District Board, Ludhiana and I wish to tell the House that in 1947 the expenditure incurred on education by that Board amounted to Rs. 6,85,000. This included the sum of Rs. 2,76,000 given by the Government to meet seventy per cent expenditure on primary education. After the partition, a large number of displaced persons came to this State and there was a greater demand for educational institutions. In free India it was our duty to have at least one primary school in an area of five square miles and one middle school in an area of eight square miles. In order to meet the increasing demand for schools, the District Board, Ludhiana, increased its Budget for education to Rs. 16,85,000 this year out of the total revenue of Rs. 27 lakhs. We thought that during the days of the British rule, we could not expect sympathy from the Government but now we could expect greater help from our own Ministers. What has actually happened is this. When the District Board spent

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

Rs. 6,85,000 on education, the Government gave a grant of Rs. 2,76,000, while now when the Board's expenditure on education has been increased to Rs. 16,85,000, the Government has reduced the grant to Rs. 1,30,000. We represented to the hon. Minister for Education that education was the greatest need of the people and the District Board could not afford such a heavy expenditure out of its revenues, but we were told that the amount of grant was determined on the basis of expenditure incurred in the year 1947, which was treated as the basic year for that purpose. In that year, a large number of uprooted persons came to this State, our schools remained closed for a considerable length of time and the Muslim teachers left for Pakistan without receiving their salaries. The expenditure on education, which the District Board, Ludhiana, had to incur that year was the lowest.

Instead of increasing the grant, the Government has reduced it to Rs. 1,36,000. We have requested the Government several times to calculate the average expenditure during the last five years and to give a grant on that basis, but no reply has been received. This is what our Government is doing for the common people!

Our Ministers go on tours and claim to be the friends of the poor, but I beg to submit that the public are influenced by the actions of the Government and not by their speeches and visits. The Government should reduce its expenditure and try to raise the economic condition of the people. If that is done, there will be no need of our Ministers visiting different places and holding conferences.

The District Board, Ludhiana, wrote to the Government that if it was not prepared to increase the grant, it should at least increase the number of District Inspectors and Assistant District Inspectors. We were prepared to meet the additional expenditure by increasing the local rate or by some other means. The number of District Inspectors and Assistant District Inspectors is so small, that they cannot inspect the schools twice a year. The inspection staff say that the amount of travelling allowance sanctioned for them is so small that it is exhausted in one month and they cannot undertake tours during the remaining eleven months of the year. We have represented to the Government many times during the last two years and offered to pay the additional amount from our own revenues, but our request has not been acceded to so far. The District Board, Ludhiana, is running 587 primary schools, 80 or 85 middle schools

and 17 high schools I shall request the Government to consider our demand sympathetically.

Then, Sir, it was stated on behalf of the Government that it had undertaken the nationalization of text-books. Nobody in this House is opposed to that scheme. At the same time, I want to point out that the way in which this work is being done, i.e., the method of selecting publishers has become a scandal. The hon. Minister for Education should see that the selection of publishers is made in a just and fair manner. Party and political considerations should not influence their selection.

Education is the most important subject and the Government should prepare a scheme for opening one primary school in every five square miles and one middle school in every eight or ten square miles. There should be at least one high school in every fifteen square miles. This can be done in two ways only. One of these is the entrusting of this work to the District Boards. As the Boards do not possess sufficient funds, they cannot do this work efficiently without liberal aid from the Government. To obviate this difficulty, the Government can provincialize education and take over all the schools into its own hands. The other way of accomplishing this task is to decentralise it and to entrust the running of primary and middle schools to the village panchayats. The Government should adopt one of these methods without further delay, so that the demand of the people for more schools may be satisfied.

Shri Sadhu Ram (Naraingarh) (Hindi): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. I shall be failing in my duty if I don't congratulate the Government on what it has done for the promotion of education in the State during the short period it has been in office — for instance the revision of the scales of pay of teachers, the nationalization of text-books etc. However, I am certain some friends sitting opposite who are in the habit of indulging in criticism for the sake of criticism shall find fault with the Government even in a matter like the nationalization of the text-books. It is so important and beneficial a measure that I can't congratulate the Government enough for it. True, the pace of the Government is slow and halting and not in keeping with the needs of the time and therefore we should impress upon it the necessity of quickening the pace of reforms in such a vital sphere as education.

[Shri Sadhu Ram]

Sir, I want to devote the rest of my time to the drawing of Government's attention to the cause of education in the backward areas. It is almost an axiomatic truth that to suppress a nation or a section of the people living in a particular area, all that need be done is to deprive it of all facilities for education. It is, of course equally true that if you want to uplift people give them the maximum facilities for education. I belong to that part which may well be called the Andamans (*Kalapani*) of this State. For ten long miles you will not, Sir, come across a single primary school if you happen to travel in that *ilaga*. What a pity it is, Sir, that even in this era of independence backward areas are being neglected as in past! In this Budget, I find not a trace of any scheme for the spread of education in these areas. Almost all the money allocated for education has been earmarked for urban areas which are already advanced and where the people are rich enough to start private institutions themselves.

The conditions in my *ilaga* are well-known to the Minister for Education since he toured these areas widely during his election campaign. Mauza Taparian is situated in a wild, rugged, hilly tract. It has only one middle school and two primary schools, which too have been started only recently. Through you, Sir, I make an earnest appeal to the Government to pay immediate attention to the upliftment of these areas for a body cannot be regarded as healthy so long as its even most insignificant limb is defective. Whenever any such demand for giving educational facilities to the backward areas is made, it is put off on the ground of paucity of funds. I don't deny that the resources of our State are limited but at the same time I cannot help pointing out that there are not a few avoidable items of expenditure from which money can be saved and spent for the spread of education in backward areas. A saving of Rs. two to two and a half lakhs can be effected by abolishing the posts and offices of Commissioners. If the Civil Supplies Department is abolished, with the resultant saving in expenditure of the order of about Rs. 25 lakhs, this Government can, in my opinion, introduce compulsory primary education in the whole of this State.

My next submission is that the District Boards should be divested of the responsibility of giving education to the rural population since they are least fitted to discharge it. Our bitter experience of these bodies compels us to say this, because the money they realize from

the people in the form of local rates is more often than not mis-spent, I would even say, squandered on useless schemes such as erection of many - storeyed buildings for their offices etc, the like of which you will not come across even in big towns while the schools run by them are housed in roofless buildings! District Boards are surely not the proper agency for giving primary education. People would welcome their abolition since they are fed up with their undue exaction in the form of cesses. The responsibility for education should be vested in the Panchayats and the Government should give them some funds for this purpose. In that case, people would also gladly contribute money for this purpose.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (Punjabi) : Sir, a directive principle has been laid down in our Constitution to the effect that the State shall endeavour to bring about universal literacy in the country within a period of ten years but it appears to me that if the present pace of the progress of education continues this objective will even after ten years be far from being realized. So far as the District Board schools are concerned, our heads hang down in shame at the scandalous state of affairs prevailing in them. In villages, classes have to be held very often under the shade of trees because no money is made available by these Boards for the construction of school buildings. While in other countries, greatest attention is paid to primary education and very able and specially trained staff is engaged for this purpose with a view to developing the potentialities of the mind of the child with the help of the most modern methods, here the conditions in which it is given are most deplorable. Instead of the atmosphere in our schools being conducive to the development of the child's mind, it is one of constant fear, fright and intimidation as a result of which the children develop many complexes and the state of their mind becomes morbid. The District Boards instead of spending on giving proper educational facilities squander away their funds on useless things.

Our Government has revised the scale of the District Board teachers and though the relief provided is not substantial yet it has given some encouragement to the teachers. They want that the Government should increase their salaries so that they may be able to put their heart and soul into their work. Moreover, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister - in-charge that orders have been issued by the Divisional Inspectress of Schools Jullundur

[Sardar Darbara Singh]

to the District Inspectress of Schools, Jullundur, that she should not go on tour for inspections. I do not understand what considerations have influenced the Government making a decision like this when such a practice has never been in vogue in other States. Besides this, the Head Mistress, Government Girls High School, Jullundur, is refusing admission to the girl students of the mofussil. I cannot understand why these unfortunate girls belonging to villages are refused admission in the schools when the Government has not provided educational facilities in the rural areas

The people in my village are willing to contribute Rs. 32,000 and are also prepared to give land measuring 50 kanals if the Government undertakes to start a middle or high school there, but the Government seems to be reluctant even after this offer. I think that the Government should transfer all District Board schools from the towns to villages. Now the position is that there is no Government High or Middle school even in a village where there is a population of eight or ten thousand. Special attention should be paid by the Government towards rural areas to educate the dumb millions. Then and then only its work will be appreciated by the masses.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (Hindi): Sir, a renowned historian has remarked that the battle of Waterloo was won on the play-fields of Eton. It means that the students of Oxford University were responsible for bringing about the downfall of Napoleon in the battlefield. So, it is the system of education on which depends a country's progress or downfall. We have been hearing for the last 50 years that the scheme of primary education known as the Wardha Scheme of education or NAI TALIM will be introduced here. But what we find today is that if there was literacy among 9 per cent of the population before the partition it is hardly $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or at the most 10 per cent today. Whereas the population has increased by geometrical progression there has not been a corresponding increase in the percentage of literacy in India. If our Government continues to follow the '*Laissez Faire*' policy which shifts the onus of duty from the State to the individual it will take fifty years or a even century to educate the masses in our State. Apart from this, we find such a mal-adjustment between the system of education and the needs of society that educated young

men cannot easily be absorbed in the country's economy. Before 1947, in the united Punjab, the number of students who appeared in the Matriculation Examination was 47,000 and now when there are only thirteen districts this number has increased to 50,000. Out of these 50,000 students, about 38,000 might have been declared successful. Then, eight or nine thousand, I think, would have taken to higher studies and five or six thousand might have got jobs and the remaining twenty-five thousand must have swelled the ranks of the unemployed.

There are not many openings for people to be gainfully employed instead of sitting idle. Now-a-days, these idle young men continue to scan the 'wanted' columns of the newspapers to become '*Babus*' in some offices. When after sometime they fail in their efforts to get any job, they become disgruntled and easily get into the fold of the Communists. Macaulay, the father of the present system of education, introduced it in 1833 when 80 per cent of the English people lived in cities and 20 per cent in the rural areas. But now the case is the reverse here. We should invite eminent educationists from America and Russia to come and put their heads together for devising better methods of education and overhauling the present system according to the needs of the time.

Now I advert to the Budget of the Education Department under the sub-head 'Direction' which relates to the pay of officers in the Head quarters office. In the united Punjab, the total expenditure on the pay of these officers amounted to Rs. 3,15,000 but now when there are only thirteen districts this expenditure has gone up to Rs. 4,62,070. Even if we exclude the pay of the officers employed recently in connection with the Provincial Advisory Board for Books which aggregates to Rs. 79,000 approximately, the expenditure still amounts Rs. 3,72,000. I hope that the hon. Minister for Education who is known to be a man of firm determination will do careful pruning of the Budget relating to this Department and retrench the superfluous posts in it. The post of Deputy Director of Public Instruction can be easily abolished without detriment to the efficient working of the office. I quite agree with my sister Shrimati Sita Devi that there is need for saving the money provided for European education. The sum provided in the Budget for European schools is Rs. 97,290. The Inspectors of European schools also draw special pays. I think that these schools are now meant to impart education

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

to the children of I. C. S. and P. C. S. Officers. It is strange that when we have not been able to extend educational facilities in the rural areas and when the cause of adult education is suffering, the sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs should be provided in the Budget for the education of the children of I. C. S. and P. C. S. Officers! I think that this item has not caught the eye of the hon. Education Minister otherwise he would not have sanctioned this amount.

The local bodies are being given an annual grant to the tune of 89 lakhs of rupees for running schools which are under their control. The consensus of public opinion is definitely against the continuance of the control of these schools in the hands of the local bodies. The management of these schools is being carried on in a scandalous manner. They are badly housed, ill-equipped and improperly staffed. The sooner they are provincialised the better. When the Government can afford to meet 75% of the expenditure in some cases and also 100% in some other cases, it can easily afford 30% more. The Teachers Union has on the basis of its personal experience given its verdict against the continuance of these schools in the hands of the local bodies. Education in this State cannot improve unless this scandalous state of affairs is put an end to.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (Punjabi) : Sir, I wanted to dwell at length on the subject of education but for want of time, I will confine myself to a few points only. Our present system of education is antiquated and stereotyped and has become completely rotten. The need of overhauling it can hardly be overemphasised because it is only education that makes a nation great. If our system of education is not reorientated, rejuvenated and invigorated, then our nation shall shortly begin to degenerate.

Mr. Speaker : Are you making a speech in English or Hindustani?

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : I can speak in any language that you like. A few words of English have necessarily to be used here and there even in a Hindustani speech. Now, Sir, the problem before us is how to stem the tide of rot and degeneration that has set in. I want to draw the attention of the Education Minister to this matter. Now this problem is two fold. If one aspect relates to technique and procedure, the other relates to the finance. First I refer to the

technique. The manner or method of imparting education in our country is very faulty. It puts too much strain on the brain of the children who are forced to devote their attention to so many different subjects from the very start. The courses in primary stage are so vast and varied that a child can hardly be expected to digest and assimilate what he is taught. His attention and energy are dissipated by making his brain accept too much. Even the children in the second-standard have to master as many as four Readers. The sooner this burden on the children is lightened the better for their growth.

Primary education is the key-stone and, therefore, we have to devote ourselves to its reformation first of all. Only then shall we be able to build a good superstructure. From the beginning, children should be taught useful things and facts relating to Science, Agriculture, Civics, Morality, Social Service, etc. instead of wasting their time on story books and novels. For a country like ours there is a greater need for scientific knowledge than anything else, especially when 90% of our population have agriculture as their profession. Therefore, Sir, Science should find a very prominent place in the curricula framed for our schools and colleges. Agricultural Chemistry and other scientific education should be imparted to students in the secondary stage. So far as students in colleges are concerned, study of advanced methods of farming, composting of manure and manufacture of fertilizers should be made compulsory. If they learn these things in their student age, they would prove a great asset for the agricultural improvement of our State. The Industries and the Education Departments should co-operate to provide training in methods of improving agriculture to the students in colleges.

Yesterday, our Chief Minister was referring to the prevalence of communalism in the State and was stressing the need for uprooting it. I think his fears about this matter are rather exaggerated. However, I would suggest some methods of preventing the spread of communalism. The first thing that the Government can do is to take over all private institutions in its own hands because it is these institutions which breed the germs of communalism and, moreover, the state of affairs in these institutions is also scandalous. If for the present the Government cannot afford to take them over, it should at least try that some representatives of teachers should also be taken on the Managing Committees so that services of teachers are not dispensed with without any rhyme or reason and they are assured of some security.

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri]

The University administration is also badly in need of reform. The position at present is that it is being dominated by a clique of 4 or 5 persons who are having their way in every matter. Out of all the 72 Members of the Senate, 20 are nominated. This method of nomination is undemocratic and out-of-date and should be put an end to.

Mr. Speaker: This is not the subject under discussion. The constitution of the University is governed by a separate Act and you can discuss it only by bringing forward a resolution to this effect.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgah) (Hindi): Sir, in our country, some people claim with pride that they would root out communalism from the country. I doubt if they will be able to do so until they are able to bring all denominational and private institutions under the direct control of the Government. In District Rohtak, there is, at least, one School representing each community, sect or class of the population of that District. There is a Gaur High School, a Saini High School, a Jat High School, a Vaish High School and so on. Our Government cannot successfully change the mental outlook of the younger generations of our State who are fed on communal ideas during their studies in these schools, until it is able to take the management of these schools in its direct control. These schools are hotbeds of communalism and sectarianism. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Education to stop the working of these schools immediately or take steps to bring them under the direct control of the Government.

The next thing to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members is that at some places there is a large number of educational institutions, while at other places there is not even one. Just take the case of Rohtak. There is a Government Degree College, a Jat High School, a Gaur High School and so many other institutions but at other places in the same District, not even a single school or college is to be found. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Education to take steps to keep one or two of these institutions at Rohtak and spread the others in other parts of the District.

Sir, I remember once a 'Mirasi' happened to visit Simla with his master. Here he saw people wearing warm clothes in the summer. When he went back, he continued to put on the woolen

blanket which he had to put on at Simla in spite of the excessive heat there. Consequently, he developed eczema on his body. Sir, similar is the case with our hon. Ministers. They are also suffering from the same trouble. The Britishers have gone from our country, but our hon. Ministers are patronizing the system of education which had been introduced by the British in spite of the fact that they fully realize that this system does not suit our society. Even to day, we find that some of our countrymen have a soft corner for the things patronized by the British. The British system of co-education is a curse for our country. It is against the traditions of Hinduism. In England, Sir the young girls are said to have attained the marriageable age when they are 20 to 22 years old but in India we find that they are considered mature at 15 or 16 years of age. Our country is following the British system of co-education quite blindly. There in England, young girls and young boys can study together, because they normally mature only after their college studies. This system cannot suit our society because the girls in our country attain the marriageable age much earlier. It is because of this, Sir, that it often comes to our notice that such and such girl has eloped with such and such professor or Principal. These things are not liked by our society. It does not like that young girls and young boys should study together. We wanted our girls to follow the high ideals of Sita and Savitri but what is happening is the reverse of it. They are turning into butterflies. Therefore, they should not be allowed to study along with the boys.

Moreover, Sir, it is undesirable to impart the same type of education to both boys and girls. The boys should have quite different subjects to study. The subjects which are taught to the boys should not be taught to the girls because the latter have to work in a different sphere after completing their education. Our society does not like that our girls should work in the offices. The present schools are only capable of producing clerks and the students after completing their studies find themselves, quite unfit to enter any other profession except service. I can safely say that every year our schools and colleges are producing 2 to 3 thousand youngmen, who are only fit for clerical jobs and nothing else

Then Sir, the most interesting thing which I want to bring to the notice of this House is that the Budget before it only provides Rs. 1/8/ to Rs. 2/- per head per annum on education. We can never

[Shri Sri Chand]

hope to overhaul the present system of education with this provision. Sufficient funds are required for this purpose.

Then, Sir, there are only 3,600 schools in our State for 16,000 villages. Is it being fair to the poor ruralites to provide just one primary school for 5 villages ?

Then, Sir, when some posts are to be filled in some Government Department, the poor candidates from the rural areas are condemned on the ground that they have not been able to speak English well and that they are not well qualified. Our Government does not realise that when there is no proper arrangement for their education, how can they come up to the mark. They are not given any concession and are being debarred from Government service.

Then, in Simla itself there are two colleges, while in the whole of the Ambala Division there are only five Government Colleges. The Government has provided a sum of Rs. 10,000/- in this budget for opening a hostel for girls at Rohtak. This hostel is being opened because the friend of an hon Minister has to be obliged by the hiring of his bungalow. Then, Sir, if the colleges are opened in the rural areas, the students will be saved from visiting cinemas etc. In the end, I request the hon. Ministers to take early steps to change the whole system of our education since it does not suit our society.

Chaudhari Mohd Yasin Khan (Ferozepore Jhirka) (*Hindi*): Sir, according to the policy of the Congress party and the Government, our claim should be considered before that of others. Moreover, mine is the only constituency in the Punjab from where a Congress candidate has been returned unopposed. This also strengthens our claim. I would like to submit that in 244 villages of Ferozepore Jhirka Tehsil there is not a single Government High School and no middle school for girls even at the headquarters. This is the area where refugees from Pakistan and displaced persons of this very ilaqa are living under difficult conditions. The Government is duty-bound to rehabilitate them and therefore there is a great need for opening more schools there and trying to improve the condition of the existing ones.

I am very sorry to say that no provision for that purpose has been made in this Budget. Of course, the hon. Ministers cannot be held

responsible for this but I think that they can redress this grievance by making some such provision in the Supplementary Estimates. In this manner, the displaced persons can be rehabilitated educationally and the people of a backward area can be pulled up to the level of the others. Chaudhri Sri Ghand has stated that in order to put an end to communalism in the State the essential prerequisite is that denominational institutions should be closed. I don't disagree with his view but the fact is that in our area there is no Government High School at all. There is only one high school, named Brayne Meo High School Nuh. In the United Punjab it was one of the leading schools of the Province. At present it is in financial difficulties. The money that it deposited in the Gurgaon Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. Gurgaon is not being paid to the school. The grant that it was to receive from the District Board has not been given to it. Only a monthly grant at the rate of Rs. 66/- is available to it under this Budget. It can well be realised what a high school can do with a petty sum of Rs. 66/- per month. Of course, the Governor was pleased to give a grant of Rs. 1,960/- plus Rs. 3,000/- sometime back. But apart from that no aid of a substantial nature is being rendered to the institution. The salaries of the teachers are being paid with great difficulty by making collection. Another grievance of the school is that when the evacuee camp was set up just in front of the school premises, a good deal of damage was sustained by the building and the furniture, although the Police Station was not far off. I would request the Government to pay compensation for this damage.

The conditions of education in the Gurgaon District are deplorable. There is no college and no girls high school even at the headquarters. In other countries of the world, education is given a prominent place in the budgets. We have knowledge of numerous instances of time limits having been fixed to educate the people. But here in our country what to say of education even the percentage of literacy is very low. No time limit has been fixed to liquidate illiteracy. We are going forward slowly and haphazardly.

Another opinion which I wish to express on the subject of education is with regard to co education. In this connection, I need not give a detailed exposition of my views. Suffice it to say that our people do not like it. It does not suit their taste. They do not

(Chaudhari Mohd Yasin Khan)

even like to see girls of eight or nine years of age studying together with boys at one place. Our villagers are specially against it. So I hope, the Government will confine its experiments to the urban areas only and leave the villages alone in this matter. With these words, I resume my seat.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (Punjabi): Sir, some of the hon. Members have expressed their opinions and have given certain useful suggestions which, I am sure, the Government will consider favourably. I would also like to say certain things in connection with the Budget. I have studied it thoroughly and am convinced that it does not contain all that it should for the benefit of the people in the rural areas. I would like to submit that there should be more schools in the villages than there are at present. In my district, for example, all the four high schools and some of the primary and middle schools are in the urban areas. Various representations have been made and the District Board has passed resolutions that the schools should be shifted from the towns and cities to the villages, but all in vain. When the poor villagers pay most of the taxes, why should they not be provided with full facilities in the matter of the education of their children? In this Budget, there is a provision for the starting of about sixteen or eighteen schools of primary standard. I would most humbly submit that all of them should be started in the villages.

There is another thing which, I think this hon. House should know. It is this that where schools are started in villages the poor residents of the villages are asked to erect buildings to house them; Whereas in the case of schools in the Model Towns in Jullundur, Ludhiana, Rohtak and Karnal, etc. the buildings have been raised at the expense of the Government itself. I can't understand this discrimination. As a matter of fact, it is the poor villagers who need the help of the Government more than any one else. The people living in towns are in a position to open their own schools. So I would like to stress the necessity of giving financial assistance to the villages.

Another matter towards which Shrimati Sita Devi has drawn the attention of this House is the education of girls. In this connection, I wish to point out that our District Board started some

girls schools sometime back. But the officers of the education department do not even pay visits to them. It is strange that while all other schools are visited and inspected properly, these girls schools are being ignored.

Then, Sir, Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that the schools functioning in the villages are in a miserable condition. Salaries of the teachers are too meagre to enable them to make both their ends meet. The number of students in each class is as large as 80 and so the teacher is unable to cope with such an unwieldy class. The matter does not end here. The students have to sit on the ground as no 'tat' is provided to the schools. I am not exaggerating things. The hon. Minister must have seen things for himself during his tours in the rural areas. It is a thousand pities that the Government does not care to supply even 'tats', leave alone buildings for the schools. Then, as I have stated, the number of students in a class is already very large and consequently admission is refused to the children of villagers. The reason put forward by the school authorities is that in view of the small number of teachers and the already large number of students, it is not possible for them to admit any more children. But this difficulty is not such as cannot be overcome. The Government should pay due attention to this matter and increase the number of teachers in the village schools. The difficulty of getting admission to the schools is not peculiar to the villages; this exists in the towns as well. My hon. Friend Sardar Darbara Singh has stated on the floor of the House that in Jullundur there was a girls school where it was well-nigh impossible to get a girl admitted without a score of recommendations.

Now I come to another point. The Government has done well to revise the grades of the teachers. By doing so, it has brought all the teachers on the same level. Now it will not be possible for those teachers who can procure recommendations to steal a march over their colleagues in the matter of promotion. But there is one drawback in this grade. The starting pay has been fixed at Rs. 50/- p. m. which is too small an amount to meet the requirements of a teacher. Now a-days even a matriculate can get a pay of 50/- p. m., but one has to spend a number of years in getting training in the art of teaching before one can be appointed as a teacher. It is, therefore, unfair to give a teacher only a paltry sum of Rs. 50/- as a starting pay. I am of the opinion that the minimum starting pay of a teacher should be

[Sardar Gurbanta Singh]

fixed at Rs. 70/- or 80/- p. m. I hope the Government will see that justice is done to the teachers in this respect.

Then, Sir, while, perusing the Budget I was simply amazed to see one item. This is in regard to the provision made for awarding a scholarship to a girl for the purpose of learning the art of dancing in foreign countries. I may point out that however good the intention of the Government may be the fact remains that this action of the Government has not found favour with the public at large. The hon. Minister for Education will perhaps remember the hue and cry raised by the citizens of Jullundur in a public meeting with regard to this matter. As a matter of fact, our society cannot take kindly to our sisters and daughters going at Government expense to learn the art of dancing in foreign countries. I have conveyed my and my countrymen's feelings on this subject to the Government and I hope necessary action will be taken in the matter.

There is then an important matter to which I wish to invite the pointed attention of the Government and that is this. Although the Government has made provision for the award of scholarships to the Harijans and has also passed orders for the remission of their fees in the schools, yet difficulty is that these orders are not complied with by the authorities concerned. I find that there is some force in the refusal of the school authorities to admit the Harijan boys. The reason is this. The financial loss caused by the remission of fees of the Harijans in the schools is made good by the Government in the form of grant or subsidy. Now, the machinery of the Government which makes these grants to the schools is extremely slow moving and it takes very long to send the much-needed money to the schools. The result is that for lack of funds, the school authorities begin to refuse admission to Harijan boys. In this connection, it may be stated that two or three years have passed and yet the Government has not paid a sum of Rs. 16,000/- due to the Alalwalpur school, in lieu of remission of fees. Similarly, Harijan students do not get scholarships in time with the result that they experience difficulties in the prosecution of their studies. It is obvious that if the help needed urgently by the Harijan students and which the Government earnestly wants to extend to them does not reach them in time, then the very object for which this help is intended is defeated. I hope the Government will pull up the

officials concerned to be quick in sending the money of the grants to the sohools and remitting the money of scholarships meant for the Harijan boys.

Shri Gajraj Singh Rao (Gurgaon): (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, the problem of education, particularly the system of education, has been a subject of hot controversy in all the regimes and if I may say so in all the ages. We want to know the principles, the ideology and the plan according to which the Congress Government wants to advance the cause of education in this State. I think this should be the qu stion which should engage the attention of the House. However, I would like to make a few observations on the demand under consideration.

I would first like to offer congratulations to the hon. Minister for Education for the steps he has taken to nationalise the publication of text-books. The Public have been rightly raising a hue and cry against the exorbitant prices charged by the publishers. It is no exaggeration to say that they have been charging annans 12 to 15 for a book which hardly costs them annas two. Not only this. Books of the wrong type were thrust upon the students. Now that a step in the right direction has been taken in the matter of nationalisation of text-books, I request that this work should be carried out with great vigour and expeditiousness. It goes without saying that there is no dearth of educationists in our country and it is a well known dictum of Goldsmith that education is the cheapest commodity in a country. In view of this, I see no reason why nationalisation of all the text-books should not take place within five or six months. I realise that the hon. Education Minister has to deal with tough people. On the one hand, the capitalist publishers are trying hard to bring pressure to bear upon him with a view to changing his mind regarding the nationalisation of books and on the other the transport magnates are making every endeavour to persuade him not to nationalise the transport industry of the State. I have every hope that the hon. Minister would rise to the occasion and successfully resist the pressure being exerted on him to have the nationalisation of books or transport industry postponed. I would request him not deviate from the path he has chosen. He should see that both these things are nationalised to the great benefit of the people at a very early date.

The second point that I want to raise is with regard to the new syllabus. I don't think that the expert educationists of our State are

[Shri Gajrat Singh Rao]

at fault. They have prepared it according to the education and training they received at Oxford, Combridge or Columbia universities. What are the subjects under the new syllabus? They are English, Sanskrit and Music. I wonder how the framers of the syllabus relegated this fact to the limbo of oblivion that 90 percent of the population of the State lived in the villages and that Music could not suit the rural people. In this connection, I may point out that our rural masses can progress in the matter of education only if we carefully prepare a syllabus which suits their need and is in accordance with the suggestions of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and the recommendations made by the Planning Commission. If I remember aright, Mahatma Gandhi ardently advocated the introduction of subjects like industry, agriculture etc., in the syllabus meant for the rural boys. But all these wholesome suggestions have been ignored and in their stead stress has been laid on Music. Now the subject of Music has been introduced but in none of the schools managed by the local bodies, any material necessary for learning it has been provided. I have also the privilege of being the Chairman of a District Board and I can confidently say that although according to the provision, if 5 students demand the introduction of Music as a subject, the school authorities are bound to do that, yet the fact remains that no equipment for learning Music is provided in any school maintained by a local body. Under the circumstances, what is the use of introducing such a subject? I hope the hon. Minister will give careful consideration to this matter.

Then I come to the problem of compulsory education. This is most essential if we are to liquidate illiteracy from our State. We find that the number of literate or educated unemployed young men is increasing. I would make a suggestion by which illiteracy among the masses can be removed and unemployment among educated young men checked. Now Sir, I know that in almost every village a number of zealous, educated social workers are to be found. I suggest that these social workers be granted a subsidy and asked to run subsidized schools in the villages. I am of the opinion that if my suggestion is worked out carefully by the Government, then at a very small cost a net-work of schools can be opened in the rural areas. By giving this suggestion a practical shape, I may assure the hon. Minister, that both the objects will be achieved namely, the liquidation of illiteracy among the masses and the reduction

in unemployment among educated young men. It may be added that these subsidized schools will not be an innovation. They will be on the lines of Ashrams of the days of yore when our pundits used to educate our masses under the "greenwood tree" in the open and bracing climate of the villages. Mahatma Gandhi's ideal was also the same. He wanted our children to receive their education outside the village in a farm under the banyan tree.

Then, Sir, there is another important point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. My hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand also mentioned this fact on the floor of the House. It is a matter of great regret that in the whole of the Ambala Division, barring Rohtak and Ambala districts, there is no Arts College in any other district. The matter does not end here. There is no girls' High School at two or three tehsil headquarters in District Gurgaon. I would request the Government to remove the grievances of the people of my ilaqa on this account without any further delay.

Then, Sir, three-fold responsibility has been placed on our District Board. At the time of the incoming of refugees the District Board authorities were asked to close the schools so that shelter could be provided to them. But during the period of the closure of schools, the Government stopped the grant. Then, a condition was laid down that the District Board should not spend more than Rs. 3000/- p. a. on the education of refugee children, no matter how large the number of such children. A representation was made to the Director of Education regarding this matter but it proved of no avail. The District Board opened twelve schools which were duly recognised by the Government. The Director of Public Instruction conveyed the order granting recognition, but now we are told that the Government is not prepared to give any grant for running these schools. We had to meet the educational needs of the refugees and the Meos and also of the people of Loharu and Pataudi which were amalgamated with our district. There were no schools in these states before their merger. I shall request the Director of Public Instruction and the hon. Minister for Education to consider this matter sympathetically, so that the people of our district may not be deprived of educational facilities.

*At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr.
Deputy Speaker*

Shri Ram Kishan : (Jullundur City, North-west), (*Hindi*): Sir, before 1947, when there was British rule in India, our rulers aimed at producing two types of educated people. One class, which consisted of big officers received education in England and the other class consisting of clerks was produced in the Indian universities. This was done to check the cultural, industrial and agricultural development of our country. The British rule ended five years ago. Our country was partitioned and this State had to undergo great suffering and loss. If we examine the present position with regard to educational facilities, we will find that in our State whose total area is 37,000 square miles, there is one boys school in an area of nine square miles and one girls school for every thirtyfour square miles. As compared with this, in West Bengal, which is the most advanced State in the matter of education, there is one boys school for every two square miles and one girls school for nineteen square miles. In this State only sixty six boys out of a thousand receive education. The number of girls per thousand who receive education is eighteen. Out of the total number of schools in this State, there are only forty four professional schools in which 2629 students are receiving education. This number includes all the engineering, technical, medical and commercial institutions. From this we can conclude that for every 120 schools in the Punjab, there is only one professional school. Now that we are going to work the Five-year Plan, it is very necessary that we should increase the number of technical institutions so that we may have the engineers the technicians, and the medical men required by us. In this way alone, can we raise the State industrially, agriculturally and economically. If we compare our State with others, we will find that while we have one professional school for every 120 schools, in other States their proportion is as follows:- Madras one professional school out of every 77 schools, Bombay one professional school out of every 89 schools, West Bengal one professional school out of every 104 schools, and Uttar Pradesh one professional school out of every 153 schools. If we want to raise our State economically, it is necessary that our Government should pay proper attention to the opening of more technical institutions.

I am glad to note that within two months of their assuming the reins of office, our Ministers have taken steps to change the system of education. They have started basic education schools at some places. In this connection, I wish to offer a few suggestions. In a

report recently published by the Government, it has been stated that some local bodies have not made proper arrangements for the education of children. In some cases it is due to a lack of funds, while in other cases it is due to other factors. The Government is carrying on the work of consolidation of holdings these days. While doing this work the Government should try to set apart at the very outset ten or fifteen acres of land in every village to start Basic Education Centres. We should keep before us the examples of Denmark and Sweden. The natural conditions obtaining in Denmark have close resemblance with the conditions in this country. Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, who was born in that country more than a hundred years ago originated the idea of people college on lines very similar to those which Gandhi ji preached. That idea can be made use of in this country also. The Government should study and act on the recommendations of the University Commission. The Commission whose members were well known educationists like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Tara Chand has referred to the Peoples College in Denmark in these words : —

The peoples college movement has been a major influence in raising Denmark from a very low condition to become the second state in Europe in per capita wealth, though there is scarcely a nation in Europe with less natural resources. The peasant rural class has become the leading social force in the country. The social legislation it has brought about is cautiously though strongly progressive.

Our Government should study the institution of peoples College as it functions in Denmark. Cultural education is imparted in these colleges and today Denmark occupies the foremost place in the countries of Europe.

Another point towards which I want to draw the attention of the Government is this that the number of students receiving education in our State is very small. Only four percent of the people receive education in school or colleges. There is, however, no doubt that the number of students who join colleges is comparatively large in our State. Out of the thirty five boys who complete school education, one join some college. In west Bengal, one out of thirty, in Uttar Pradesh one out of fifty, in Bombay one out of sixty five, in Madhya Pradesh one out of seventy nine, in Bihar one out of eighty two, in Madras one out of one hundred and one, in Assam one out of one hundred and seven and in Orissa one out of one

[Shri Ram Kishan]

hundred and eight boys who leave school and join the colleges for higher studies. There was a time when the aim of the education imparted in the college was to produce officers for the Indian Civil Service and other high services, with whose help the British rulers could govern the country. But now there is democratic rule in the country and we require engineers, economists and technicians to carry forward the country along the road to progress. The system of collegiate education should be completely changed. Our system of education should be such that we may not have to import engineers and experts from foreign countries. A number of Committees submitted reports on education, but it is a pity that no steps have been taken to implement their recommendations. Kher Committee submitted its report on education a number of years ago and it was followed by the report of the Sargent Committee on post war education. Committees on Basic Education, primary education and Secondary Education have also submitted their reports. The Reports of the University Commission which was recently published embodies valuable suggestions. I am sorry that none of the recommendations made by these Committees has been put into effect so far.

I would request the Minister for Education to set up a high-level committee of educationists to consider the ways and means of overhauling the system of education with a view to bringing it in tune with the needs of the time and the new social context. Many decades have passed since the Punjab Education Code was made and it has become obsolete in many respects. Now that many other States have modified their Education Codes in keeping with the conditions prevailing in them and brought them up-to-date, it is high time that the Punjab Education Code was also revised.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has set a very good example by establishing a Bureau of Mind Psychology with a view to ascertaining the aptitude of the boys and girls for various professions. This Bureau gives advice as to whether a boy would do well in engineering or in some other profession or as an administrator or a professor. It is in accordance with the findings of the Bureau that the future education of the boy is planned. I would commend this sort of Bureau for this State also so that we may be able to find the best possible human material for our future administrators, doctors and engineers.

Mr Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member may now please wind up.

Shri Ram Kishan : Permit me, Sir, to sum up the suggestions that I have to make in a few words. University administration is badly in need of reform. Every possible effort should be made to end the domination over its various bodies such as the Senate, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Science, the Academic Council, etc. of those who are not educationists in the true sense of the word. Secondly, a Chair of Gandhism should be created to propagate the principles and economic concepts underlying Gandhi Ji's philosophy and to promote the systematic and comparative study of religions. Thirdly, I would suggest that the Government should help the creation of a fund for the relief of teachers in non Government educational institutions and make arrangements for providing free education to the children of the deceased political sufferers. Fourthly, everybody in this State, whatever his community, should be made to realise that it is his duty to learn Hindi. At the same time, steps should be taken to make it the medium of instruction. Regional languages should also be given due attention. Private schools and colleges should be directed to introduce the same scales of pay and dearness allowance for the teachers as are in force in the Government institutions and charge the same fees as are being charged in the latter. The need for giving an adequate wage to and raising the status of the teacher who is the real nation-builder and torch bearer can hardly be overemphasised. At present, the position is that men of requisite qualifications are not attracted towards the teaching profession owing to the meagre remuneration that is offered to them. It is high time the teacher was allowed to come into his own and get his rightful status in society. I would also suggest that adequate arrangements should be made in all schools and colleges for imparting physical education to the students. This side of the education cannot be ignored.

In the end, I would urge that attention should be paid in schools and colleges to the raising of the moral character of the children with whom the future of our country is linked. No one should be awarded a Diploma or a Degree unless he gets some training in social service. This is the paramount need of the hour.

Shri Naranjan Dass Dhillon (Phillaur) (Hindi): Sir, since the formation of this Ministry wherever our Ministers have gone they have been expressing their concern for the people in rural areas. On going through this Budget, however, I find that people in the rural areas have again been neglected. I will prove this assertion of mine with the help of facts and figures.

There is no denying the fact that 85% of our population lives in villages. So far as the urban population is concerned, 175 boys out of every 1,000 get the opportunity to go to school while in rural areas the corresponding figure is 75 per thousand. As regards female education, the disparity is all the more wide. While in towns, 75 girls out of every thousand get education, in villages only 12 girls in every thousand go to schools. These figures for villages include those children who go to towns to get education after traversing several miles. On an average, there is only one primary school for boys for every four villages and one primary school for girls for every 14 villages. This will give you, Sir, an idea of the state of education in rural areas in this State.

On the other hand, we find two colleges functioning in a place like Simla, both running at a loss, while in fact one can do for this place. Money saved by the closure of one college can well be utilised for imparting primary education in rural areas. Last year, the District Board, Jullundur, opened 12 new Girls schools in the rural areas. They are running quite satisfactorily but the Divisional Inspectress of Schools has refused to have them inspected because they have not been opened in accordance with her wishes. On behalf of the District Board and the people of the ilaqa, I request the Government to direct the Department concerned to issue instructions for inspection of these schools as early as possible. On the one hand, the Government is never tired of expressing its concern for the uplift of the rural people and on the other hand when schools are opened for their benefit the necessary sanction and recognition is denied to them. By another resolution the District Board has decided to shift all its schools running in urban areas to rural areas as early as possible.

We brought forward such a resolution about a year ago but the Government did not accept it. When the District Board derives its income from the local rates paid by the villagers, why should these schools continue to function in towns? The municipal committees do not give these institutions any financial aid. Under these

circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister-in-charge to allow these schools to be transferred to the villages.

Besides this, I would say that our educational system is so faulty that we cannot expect any good accruing to the State from it. At present, the percentage of the boys who are studying in the industrial or technical schools or other professional schools is 9.4 per cent and that of the students studying in Arts Colleges is 90.6 per cent. It shows that 90 per cent of the boys have to struggle hard for getting jobs and 9 per cent only become lawyers, engineers and doctors. When these educated boys leave their schools and colleges, they are only fit to become 'Babus'. They have never been made to use their hands either at schools or colleges with the result that they are completely unfit to earn their livelihood by manual work. Under these circumstances, I would suggest that the Government should take steps to open as many professional colleges as it can and reduce the number of Arts Colleges. Moreover after the partition, the District Board of Jullundur is spending 63 per cent of its total budget on education and receives very little grant-in-aid from the Government. I would suggest that the Government should give a liberal grant-in-aid to the District Board schools. It would be still better if the Government provincialises these district board schools so that education may not receive any set-back for one reason or the other.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (Hindi) : Sir, the Education Department is a very important department and it is this department that can bring about a revolution in the country. This department needs the special attention of the Government but I am sorry to say that the Government evinces very little interest in it. As would appear from the Budget, the Government has provided a sum of Rs. 1,98 lakhs for it which, I submit, is quite inadequate. We want to spread education among the masses but finance is proving a great hurdle in our way. The Government should come forth with ample funds for this noble cause. I want to tell the Government that the Governments of all the advanced countries in the world spend about 25 per cent or even more of their total income on education. In Soviet Russia, the budgetary provision for education is 40 per cent of the total expenditure. But what we find here is that only 8.5 per cent of the total budget is earmarked for education. It is true that our State is financially very backward as compared

[Shri Rala Ram]

with those countries. But we should also realise that we have to make a rapid progress and spread education among the people who are steeped in ignorance and illiteracy. For this, we will have to make a sacrifice and if we are all prepared for it, then the money will automatically be forthcoming. 'Where there is a will there is a way, is a very old maxim. If we make up our minds to accomplish a definite object, we are almost sure to succeed. Similarly, if we have the firm determination to spread education among the masses, the finding of finance for this purpose will not present serious difficulties. I would say that the provision of a sum of Rs. 1,98 lakhs is quite inadequate and is a sort of joke with the Education Department. The Government should, therefore, provide money on an ampler scale.

An hon. Member remarked that there is need for spreading education but he was of the opinion that the Government should issue orders that all the private institutions should be closed down and brought under the control of the Government. I must tell him that the service which the private schools are rendering is so commendable that the Punjab can reasonably be proud of them. If our State can favourably compare with Bengal, Madras and Mysore in the matter of education, it is because of the contribution made by the private institutions in the cause of education. I may state for the information of the hon. Members that there are only six Government colleges in the State whereas the number of private colleges is thirty. I may ask wherefrom this money required to provincialise these private colleges is to come? If the Government were to take such a step, the amount provided in the Budget for Education will be totally spent for provincialising these institutions. No body would deny that we should eradicate communalism root and branch from the State. May I know, who is really responsible for the spread of communalism? I would say that the politicians, in fact, are responsible for encouraging communalism and not we. We fought shoulder to shoulder with others in the freedom struggle. Our students courted arrests in the satyagraha movements. Then how can it be said that the private institutions have been responsible for inflaming communal feelings? As a matter of fact, the British Government was responsible for giving encouragement to separatist tendencies by setting members of different communities to fly at each others, throats with a view to

perpetuate the British rule in India.

The hon. Members may themselves judge how many more Government schools and colleges will have to be opened to impart education, if all private institutions were abolished. So far as my own district is concerned, there are hardly three Government colleges and seventy privately-managed schools.

It is true that these denominational schools and colleges are not ideal educational institutions, but it is one thing to suggest the removal of defects in them and another to close them altogether. Those who plead that these denominational institutions should be put an end to cannot advance the cause of education. If they think so, they are labouring under a grave delusion. After all, what is the difference between Government and private colleges? The Government represents the people and these schools and colleges represent people's own enterprise. Why should then they be looked upon with suspicion? Let us all make it a point to remove the bad features of these privately-managed institutions and thus promote the growth of education in our State. It is, however, Sir, a matter for pity and regret that the Government is not giving to these institutions the financial aid that they deserve. Does the Government think that by providing a sum of Rs. 2, 75, 000 only for giving grants-in aid to private colleges and schools it can improve the lot of the teachers working in them? We also wish that teachers in private institutions should get the same dearness allowance as those working in Government institutions. It is in the fitness of things that our Government which is a popular Government should take this responsibility upon its own shoulders and provide money for the improvement of the lot of the teachers who are the givers of education and the real nation builders. How can a discontented and inadequately paid teacher serve the society well by performing his duties efficiently and satisfactorily? Therefore, Sir, it is essential that the Government should give liberal money grants to private school and colleges so that they may be able to give better emoluments to the teachers working in them. The money provided for this purpose is wholly inadequate. The teachers are benefactors of the nation and selfless workers. It is the private institutions which with the help of donations satisfy the educational needs of the people, which the Government due to the paucity of funds is unable to do. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to help these private enterprises by allocating the maximum money possible for them.

[Shri Bala Ram]

There is no question of any competition between the Government and the private educational institutions. They serve the common purpose of educating the masses of this country i. e. advancing the noble cause of education. In the task of nation-building, we are prepared to be guided by our leaders in the Government just as we used to obey them when we fought against the British imperialism.

I would also suggest that more attention should be paid towards improving the conditions under which primary education is being imparted in our State. The conditions in the primary schools are simply scandalous. They are housed in bad buildings and are ill-equipped. The sanitary conditions in them are also far from satisfactory. I want also to impress on the hon. Minister for Education the necessity of improving the methods of inspection of schools. The position at present is that the inspecting staff do not care to ascertain the real facts about the work of the teachers and the students. Wherever they are given a rousing reception and provided good entertainment they give good remarks to the school authorities and so on. They really do not care to enquire into the actual conditions obtaining in a school.

The biggest problem that faces the educationists in our country to-day is how to finance the further education of brilliant but poor students. Under the present system while the son of a rich man can go in for higher education even after securing 3rd division marks in the Matriculation Examination, students securing 600 to 700 marks are forced to discontinue their studies owing to the weak financial position of their parents. The staff of the Government colleges may not have to face this problem but those who are working in private colleges come across many such instances every year. It is the duty of the society to finance the higher education of brilliant children belonging to poor families who cannot go in for it owing to their poverty. If they are allowed the opportunity to get higher education they will prove an asset to the nation, otherwise their brilliant brains will be lost to it. In this connection, I may also point out that though the University has increased the number of scholarships given by it on the result of the Matriculation Examination, the number of Government scholarships continues to be the same. I would urge that as in other foreign countries the expenses on the education of brilliant boys are borne by the Government itself, so should be the case here. The Government should give liberal scholarships to poor

but deserving students so that their educational careers are not cut short.

I wanted to say a lot with regard to the text-books but due to shortage of time I will confine myself to a few remarks only. The decision to nationalise books is a step in the right direction. But I have to point out with regret that text-books of certain classes have not 'so far' been published and even though 6 months have elapsed since the classification took place the children are without text-books. The Government is earning a bad name for itself for nothing on this account. If books could not be published in time, it would have been better to let the old books remain in force for another year, so that children might not have to experience any inconvenience owing to late publication of the newly-prescribed books. People are blaming the Education Department and attributing to it various motives because of this fact.

Sardar Partap Singh (Rupar) (Punjabi): Sir, during the debate on the General Administration, several suggestions were made by the hon. Members of this House with regard to effecting economy and saving money. It was suggested that now that we are producing enough foodgrains and there is no shortage of sugar the Civil Supplies Department should be abolished. It was also suggested that expenditure on the Police should be reduced and money being spent on the staff employed in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign should also be saved. I am in perfect agreement with those hon. Friends who made these suggestions, and would urge that all the money thus saved be spent on the betterment of the lot of the teachers. We owe everything of which we are proud to our teachers. They are our real builders. It is the teachers who have by giving us the light of knowledge made us men — the roof of the creation. Without this education we would have been no better than animals. So we should all endeavour to work for their betterment.

Education is the best yard-stick for measuring a country's progress. It is education which makes a nation great. Therefore, Sir, the more the education progresses in our State the higher shall be the stature of our State among the civilized States. We cannot spend too much on the Education Department.

Then, Sir, I request the Government to concentrate its attention on this department and to take steps for the betterment of the

[Sardar Partap Singh]

teachers.. The Government has done well to revise their grades and give them an additional allowance of Rs. 5/-. But this is not sufficient. Their grades are yet very low. They are sure to impart education in a better way if the Government provides them the incentive to do so by further improving their grades.

Then, Sir, the conditions in the District Board schools and other private schools which are getting grants-in-aid from the Government are not in the least satisfactory. It would be much better, if the Government provincialises these schools and takes them under its direct control. For this purpose the Government will not have to spend much bigger amount than the money it is already paying to these schools in the form of grants-in-aid.

Yesterday the hon. Chief Minister had assured this House that his Government would try its level best to uplift the scheduled caste in the State but I find that these are all hollow assurances. I do not find anything practical being done in this direction. The Government has not even cared to fulfil its written promises. For instance, it had laid down that scheduled caste students would have their fees remitted in schools as well as colleges, that they would be given scholarships and would be exempted from payment of examination fees but these promises have not been fulfilled. Sometimes the fees charged from them are refunded to them after the lapse of periods ranging up to 2 years. The scholarship of Rs 6/- which the Government gives to a scheduled caste student is not a very substantial help. In fact they should be given scholarships right from the first primary class up to post graduate stage.

The other day the hon. Minister for Finance had said that sometimes there were very good posts to be filled up, but no scheduled caste candidates with the required academic qualification were available. I do not agree with him in this matter. The fact is, Sir, that many graduates and double graduates belonging to the scheduled castes are found to be out of employment. I want to place an interesting case before this House. Our Government has appointed one Harijan welfare officer but he has been given the poor start of Rs 150/- and his grade ends at Rs. 220/- only. This is the grade that our Government has sanctioned for an officer who has to look after the welfare of the Harijans. By doing so, is not the Government making fun of the Harijan community? It should

have given him at least the P. C. S. grade. I request the Government to take steps to improve his grade.

One thing more that pains the whole Harijan community is the discrimination being made between the Hindu Harijans and the Sikh Harijans. The Hindu Harijans are being allowed certain privileges which are being denied to most of the Sikh Harijans. This discrimination is not to be expected of the Government of a secular State. We should not ignore the Poona Pact.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (Punjabi): Through you, Sir, I want to impress upon the House that the present system of education in our country is faulty and cannot be successful. This system cannot be improved till our Government ignores the terms of contracts which it had entered into with the I. C. S. officers who do not allow us to be economically free. Our economic dependency is the main source of our difficulties. In my opinion it is not right to say that our Government is under an obligation to fulfil those promises.

Then, Sir, I want to point out to the Government that our country has failed to make any progress after the attainment of freedom. We find ourselves at the same stage of economic development at which we started. There has been no improvement in the economic and social condition of the Harijans and other backward classes despite many promises made by our leaders for the uplift of these classes at the time our country was not free. Same is the case with their education.

Then, Sir, the present system of education is killing the spirit of patriotism which had been engendered in our masses, thanks to the strenuous efforts of our national leaders. The Government has totally ignored the workers of the Azad Hind Force and the Professors and Principals of the National Institutions, who were responsible for fostering the spirit of nationalism among the masses. These fighters of our nation's struggle for freedom have not been given any employment.

Another thing to which, I want to draw the attention of the Government is that it has not cared to examine the text-books that are being taught in our schools. Those history books, which were taught during the British regime in this country are still being taught.

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]

My hon. Friends fully know that those books do not give the true picture of our past. In these books, the British people are shown as superior to our country-men in every respect. Even the British soldiers are depicted as better fighters than our soldiers. I therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to get these history books rewritten. These books should contain the true picture of our struggle for freedom. Then and then alone we shall be able to infuse the true national spirit in our children.

Sir, even the Unionist Government realized the importance of this matter. Through various forms of publicity such as the publication of journals and magazines and the staging of plays bringing out the stone-heartedness of the Shahukars and depicting the pitiable plight of the debtors, that Government tried to make propaganda in favour of its policies with the result that it was able to carry out many social reforms. Now that we have a Government of our own, the people must be made to realise the significance of the sacrifices made by martyrs like Bhagat Singh and incidents like that of Jallianwala Bagh and their effect upon the national struggle for political emancipation. As a matter of fact, such important landmarks in our struggle for independence should find their due place in our history books. At present, no attention is being paid to the importance of recasting our history books. Some minor incidents from the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and other heroes have been introduced in the text-books but no planned effort has so far been made to recast the history books and to bring them up-to-date. Our Government is doing nothing substantial in this matter. It is engaged in the simple task of balancing the Budgets only.

Previously, a sum of Rs. 1,67,60,200 was provided for education and this year this demand has been increased to Rs. 1,98,67,000 only. No effort has been made to get out of old ruts and do something new for the people. As a matter of fact, it appears as though our Ministers are powerless before the old bureaucrats and officials. In reality, the real transfer of power has been made by the British to their favourites who now control the destiny of our small State. The only blame that I can put on the hon. Minister under these circumstances is that they no longer take the public into confidence as they used to do in the days of the struggle against

imperialism. Even now if they seek the co-operation of the masses, they can have it. But how can those who have derived power from the British by means of certain agreements with them, be expected to encourage the people to think for themselves and go forward? So far as this Budget is concerned, I can only say that the poor people have been fleeced to enrich the officers. Huge amounts have been earmarked for the General Administration, Jails, Police etc; while the beneficent and nation building departments are being starved. The officers are paid thousands of rupees every month, while our students are asked to sit in dilapidated structures without any books. When rains come, such students have to run for shelter hither and thither. How can they be expected to learn anything?

In some schools, even the services of the sweepers have been terminated in order to teach the boys how to do service! At some places, the students are even asked to purchase bells, hammers, tables and chairs for the teachers from their own pockets. How can the students bear these expenses under the economic conditions in which our villagers are eking out their existence? In villages the people are asked to raise funds for buildings notwithstanding the fact that it is in the knowledge of the Government that these people are poor. Government has stated that it is trying to open new schools in the State. If they are really serious about it, they should plan things with boldness. The boys and their parents are willing to co-operate with them. But the thing which should not be lost sight of is the economic condition of the people. Education should be cheap so that it may be easily available to all the people. The Government should spend as much as it can and should not strain the meagre resources of the people. In China there are night schools which impart instruction to about four crores of people. Education there is so cheap that even the poorest labourer can afford to get his children educated. We should also work on the same lines. The Government should spend liberally on this important department. Unless the State takes interest in this department, there can be no improvement in this field. The conditions in our private schools are going from bad to worse. In Abohar, for instance, about one and a half thousand students, are huddled together in a building which cannot accommodate them. The rooms are very small, so the student have to sit outside. When rains come, they have to run hither and thither for shelter. Under such conditions, r

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]

education can be imparted. So, I would request the Government to spend liberally on education. The money required for this purpose can be easily obtained by nationalizing mills and factories. It is strange that even in Simla, the authorities have not been able to provide electricity to the Art School started here about a year ago. In Simla, I have come to know that the compensatory allowance of the teachers has been reduced from seventyfive percent to thirty per cent. Under these conditions, how can education improve? As a matter of fact, those who have no respect for the teacher cannot be expected to do anything in the sphere. It is painful that many district board teachers have been removed from services at one place. This state of affairs should be put an end to as soon as possible.

Shri Jagdish Chandra (Ludhiana City, North) (*Hindi*): Sir, education is an essential prerequisite for the successful functioning of democracy. Now that we have achieved independence, set up democratic institutions and given to all of our adult population the right to vote, the next step is to impart proper education to our citizens. So far as the question of primary education is concerned, we are pledged to giving it to all free of charge. But how to achieve this objective? The parents are willing to send their children to schools. The snag is that there are very few schools and the opening of new schools involves funds which we lack. The most difficult question is that of buildings. In this connection, I would like to suggest that there are certain abandoned mosques which can be utilized as such. At present, most of the mosques left by Muslim evacuees are in private possession. They are being utilized as Gurdwaras or Mandirs. If these buildings are taken over for opening primary schools in them, this difficulty can be solved to a great extent. Moreover, the communal propaganda that is at present being carried on in such mosques can be stopped in this manner. Thus, two birds can be killed with one stone. A legislation on this subject would be quite welcome. In addition to these mosques, the actual Gurdwaras and Mandirs can also be utilized for imparting education. In ancient times, most of the teaching work was done at such religious places. The same practice should be followed even now and the money saved in this manner may be used for imparting education to others.

Another suggestion that I would like to make is that in order to effect economy the shift system may be introduced in the existing schools and colleges. This experiment was quite successfully tried in the Law College, Lahore, where evening and morning classes used to be held. This may be tried on a large scale.

Now, so far as the question of employment of more teachers is concerned, it may be pleaded that the Government is unable to tackle it for lack of funds. In this connection I wish to make a suggestion, which if put into practice by the Government, will go a long way to resolve this difficulty. The Government can, by law, requisition the services of lawyers and Government servants and command them to devote a certain amount of time, of course, after their office hours to imparting education to the illiterate people in the towns in which they are residing. The Government should set up evening or night schools and the classes of people mentioned by me may be asked to do this job without any remuneration. They should be told that they have to do this work as part of their duty towards their country. As you are aware, Sir, these lawyer friends and officers invariably while away their time in clubs by playing Bridge or indulging in gossip after taking pegs of whisky. Now when we are confronted with the nation-wide problem of liquidating illiteracy these gentlemen should be asked to help the Government and take their due share in solving this gigantic problem.

Then, Sir, our State stands in dire need of libraries. I feel that there should be a good library in every town and village so that young men and women should avail themselves of such books as would enlighten them on the economic, social and political conditions prevailing in our State as also in other countries. I hope this matter will receive the careful and active attention of the Government, as libraries can play an important role in the life of a town or a village and go a long way in the spread of knowledge among the unenlightened humanity.

Then, Sir, another pressing need that is being keenly felt by one and all is the change in the system of our education. It goes without saying that the British wanted clerks to help them in running the machinery of this Government. They, therefore, introduced such a system of education as suited their own requirements and they laid a great stress on the English language, the learning of which was

[Shri Jagdish Chandra]

made compulsory. Now, when we have to re-build our nation and make it strong in every respect, the Government should give serious thought to the question as to whether the present system of education which is a legacy of the British is adequate to meet our demands. I think, if we carefully consider this matter, we shall reach the conclusion that we stand more in need of engineers, doctors, technicians and scientists than mere graduates who after completing their studies in the colleges simply swell the ranks of the unemployed. I would go a step further and say that after a student has completed his primary education, he should not be allowed to join secondary schools unless it is certified by the Headmaster concerned that he has got the proper aptitude for going in for higher education. Similarly, on completion of the secondary education, a student should be permitted to take up his University Education only if the Headmaster of the institution issues a certificate to the effect that he possesses a literary bent of mind necessary for higher or University education. In this connection, I may also submit that so far as literary education is concerned, we can afford to have only a small number of men of letters. But if we have to build our nation, if we have to raise the standard of living of the masses by increasing the production, if we want our State to be developed industrially and economically, then we need a larger number of persons fit to man the various professions or in other words technical men. My submission, therefore, is that I am not in favour of opening Arts Colleges by the Government. I feel that it should rather concentrate its energies and utilise its funds for the establishment of professional colleges like the Medical and Engineering colleges which impart technical education. I am sure that this suggestion will receive careful consideration by the Government.

Then, as I have already stated, higher education should be imparted to our children only after ascertaining that they possess the necessary fitness, ability and natural propensity for it. Certain private individuals are taking an initiative in establishing such institutions, as introduce technical education from the very start. Now-a-days, when the functions of government have increased vastly, I would impress upon the Government the desirability of changing the present system of education and moulding it in a way calculated to meet our present-day needs. It is no use establishing new Arts

Colleges and producing graduates who are fit for no other job than the clerical in offices.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's time is over. Now Shri Daulat Ram will make his speech.

Shri Daulat Ram Sharma (Hamirpur) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, it will be admitted on all hands that the progress of a country largely depends upon the system of education prevalent in it. It is, therefore, one of the most essential factors making for the advancement of a country. I have perused the Budget from end to end but I have failed to find any radical change in it that we had expected so far as the expenditure on education is concerned. I use to read the leading articles written by the hon. Minister in his newspaper with great interest and was, therefore, under the impression that on his holding the portfolio of Education, he would certainly reform the system of education in this State and the change would be visible in the Budget of the Government. I am constrained to remark that the Budget has not come up to our expectations so far as education is concerned.

I find that the hon. Minister for Education has not paid due heed to the contents of Articles 45 of the Constitution of India. If you just peruse Article 41, you will find that it enjoins upon the State Government to make effective provision within its economic capacity for securing the right to get education to all without any distinction. It implies that the backward classes will have equal rights to educational facilities with the others. Not only this. Article 45 goes further. It lays down that

The State shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.

The directive contained in this Article is quite clear. I am of the opinion that the Government should start taking definite steps from today so that the objective may be realised within the period specified. Now, what is the state of affairs regarding educational matters in our State? Article 45 of the Constitution envisages free education up to the 8th class in a State but here the fees in the schools have been enhanced. The prices of the books have been increased, as a result of which it has become very difficult for the poor people to get education. Only the rich can afford to receive education under present circumstances, as it is very costly. I, therefore, strongly impress upon the Government the desirability of giving a practical

[Shri Daulat Ram Sharma]

shape to the directive contained in Article 45 as soon as possible as any delay is bound to prove detrimental to the interests of the poor whose children will be deprived of education for want of means to defray the expenses involved.

Then, Sir, I find from a perusal of Budget that no attention has been paid to the backward areas, particularly the tehsil of Hamirpur in Kangra District whose people have no access to the amenities of life that have been provided by the Government to the people of other districts. In this connection, I may point out that this area remained backward even during the British regime. The reason for keeping this ilaqa backward educationally, economically and industrially was that it served as a recruiting ground for the Defence Department and provided man-power for the army. The British Government purposely withheld the amenities of life so that the people may not become ease-loving. But now the conditions have changed. We are a free country and our own Government is in power. It is a pity that still the same step-motherly treatment is being meted out to the people of this ilaqa. The people of Tehsil Hamirpur are second to none in their patriotism and zeal to lay down their lives in the defence of their country. They should be provided educational facilities to shake of illiteracy.

The hon. Minister for Education, the Director of Public Instruction, and the Deputy Director of Public Instruction go on tours but they stay at the district headquarters and do not take the trouble of visiting the villages. They do not care to contact the poor masses living in the villages because they find it inconvenient to travel by village roads and also because the amenities which they can get in the towns cannot be had in the villages. They cannot know the condition of education in the rural areas.

There is not a single girls school in Tehsil Hamirpur, we have been writing to the Divisional Inspector of Schools for opening a girls school there but nothing has been done so far. We offered to provide land for school-building free of cost. The Divisional Inspector asked us to execute a bond and we did so. He asked us to execute another bond and we did as desired. I do not know how many times we will be required to execute such bonds. No girls school has been opened as yet. Hamirpur Tehsil which extends over an area of fortyfive miles by forty miles is the largest

tehsil in the State. When the Inspector of Schools intimates that he would reach there on a particular day, all the lady teachers assemble at the head-quarters to meet him. Many times, a telegram is received at the eleventh hour to inform the teachers that the Inspector has postponed his visit.

All the new schools and colleges are being opened in the cities and towns where a large number of educational institutions already exist. Rich people who live in the cities can open these at their own expense but the poor villagers are finding it very difficult even to make their both ends meet. It is the duty of the Government to attend to the needs of these people. There is only one boys school in Tehsil Hamirpur and it is overcrowded. For twenty one sections of different classes of the school, there are only thirteen class rooms and the remaining classes have to sit in the open. I have asked the authorities several times to arrange for the construction of more rooms but every time I am told that the system of Basic Education started by Gandhiji envisaged the holding of classes in the open fields. If that is the case, why should the same policy be not pursued every where ?

In Hoshiarpur or Jullundur, buildings are constructed for schools and colleges, but when similar facilities are demanded for Tehsil Hamirpur, we are told that Gandhiji wanted educational institutions to hold classes in the open. Moreover, the tuition fees are so high that the poor people cannot afford to pay them. These should be reduced and the agriculturists should be given special concessions.

Another suggestion which I wish to make is that the system of education should be completely changed. As is the practice in Germany, children should be put to a psychological test in order to find out their natural bent of mind. Only that kind of education should be given to a student for which he or she has natural aptitude. In this way alone, can a child's mind be developed fully. The teachers also should be trained in the art of imparting education on the right lines and should also be trained in child psychology.

Shri Nand Lal (Karnal) (Hindi): Sir, a number of hon. Members have expressed their views on education in the State. I admit that our Ministers have been taking interest in this important subject ever since they assumed office. As my hon. friend Shri Daulat Ram

[Shri Nand Lal]

pointed out, it has been provided in the Constitution in the chapter dealing with the Directive Principles of state policy, that it is the duty of the Government to make arrangements for free education up to secondary stage within ten years. Two years have already elapsed since the enforcement of the Constitution.

When I look at the expenditure provided by the Government for education in the State, I see no hope of our achieving that objective in the next eight years. The problem of education cannot be solved by saving a few thousand rupees in one department and a few thousand in another. In order to achieve the objective laid down in the Constitution, we require a large amount of money. The Government has paid no attention to this need. In this connection, I want to cite the instance of Japan. When Emperor Mikado found that the people of his country could not receive education on account of lack of funds he ordered that the income of all the religious institutions should be forfeited and utilised for educating the masses. Within a few years, almost all the people living in Japan became literate. In our country also religious institutions have incomes of crores of rupees. All this money is being used for propagating communalism among the masses.

I agree with the observation of my hon. Friends, Professor Mota Singh and Shri Sri Chand, but I do not agree with Shri Rala Ram when he says that denominational institutions are doing useful work in the sphere of education. Formerly, these institutions were meant for producing clerks only. In 1921, when the Congress called upon the students to boycott colleges, it was one of such institutions which offered an insult to Kumari Lajya Wati. Recently I noticed another thing in the case of D. A. V. High school, Karnal. During the elections when Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, whose views are heard and read by the people all over the world, came to Karnal, the Head Master of the D. A. V. High School, Karnal, issued an order that if any student attended Pandit Ji's lecture, he would be fined annas four. Do not such things reveal communalism?

There was a high school in Kurali where students were required to attend their classes in blue turbans. This condition was waived when the displaced persons from Jhelum who settled there started another school. Even now, there are some schools whose students

cannot attend their classes without the turbans. There is no doubt that such schools are doing the work of spreading education but they are also producing the most dangerous poison of communalism. If all these schools cannot be nationalized at once, there should be a representative of the Government on their Managing Committees in order to ensure that they do not spread communalism but help in propagating national ideas among the students. So long as these schools are permitted to spread communalism a secular State can not be established.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the non-existence of facilities for higher education in our Division. Right from Ambala to Delhi, there is not a single Government college in any of the places *en-route*. Karnal is a very big, progressive and productive district and a large number of refugees who are very much eager for education have been resettled in it. People of this district are obliged to the Dyal Singh Trust for opening a college at Karnal but, Sir, my submission is that only one college is insufficient for the needs of such a large district as Karnal.

Take the case of Panipat. It is a very large town—the biggest between Ambala and Delhi and has as many as four high schools for Girls besides schools for boys but the Government has not yet thought it fit to open a college at this place. The result is that every day about 200 boys have to catch the 5 A. M. train to reach Karnal for getting collegiate education and their mothers have to get up at 3 A. M. to prepare meals for them. Don't you feel, Sir, that this involves a great hard-ship for them and their parents? If the Government does not pay heed to this matter, some community will certainly try to open a college there but I wish to have a Government instead of a denominational college for the reasons I have already explained. I would request the Government to see its way to the opening of a college at Panipat. It should not worry much about the funds. Public of this place are willing to make generous contribution for this purpose and facilitate the opening of a Government college in every way for which I need hardly repeat there is a genuine need.

Principal Harbhajan Singh (Garhshankar) (Punjabi): Sir, persons who are responsible for imparting education have much to complain of in so far as the treatment meted out to them by the society is concerned. They do not command the same respect as

[Principal Harbhajan Singh]

is enjoyed by persons of lesser qualifications in other departments and spheres of life simply because they have not got in their hands what is popularly known as 'power.' In the eyes of the people in general only those who wield executive power are worthy of respect and courtesy. I had, however, never imagined that this Department would meet with scant regard even in this House. I don't attribute it to design but the fact remains that attendance in the House today is very thin. As ill-luck would have it, of the two days reserved for discussion of the Demand for education, one happens to fall immediately before the holidays and the other immediately after them. The result is that most of the hon. Members who are not present today might not be present even on Tuesday.

Sir, of all the Ministers, the Minister for Education should consider himself most fortunate inasmuch as his is the only Department for which every body will plead for more funds. Though with a view to discuss the working of this Department, a number of cut motions have been moved yet they are just by way of a formality. Really speaking, every body desires more funds to be allocated to it, if not now, at the time of the presentation of the Supplementary Estimates. The total money earmarked for education is little more than that allocated to the General Administration. Still it is not as much as it should be. Unfortunately, it has such a huge staff that if the Government makes an effort to improve the lot of all of them who are low-paid it will have to spend crores of rupees.

I fully support what my hon. Friend Principal Ralla Ram has stated with regard to the inadequacy of the grants sanctioned for the private colleges. I would not hesitate to say that these grants do not touch even the fringe of the financial needs of these colleges. An institution which needs a grant of Rs. 30,000/- per annum and is sanctioned one of Rs. six to seven thousand can hardly be expected to feel very much beholden to the Government for this since the problem of finding the balance continues to be as difficult as it would have been had no grant been made at all. The present system of grants is not calculated to do much good. It falls very short of the ideal system in vogue in olden times which aimed at making the institutions self-supporting.

With regard to the criticism levelled at the denominational,

institutions that they spread communalism, my submission is that this impression, to a very large extent, is wrong. There might have been some truth in this charge in the past. Today there are very few such cases. I am sure the Managing Committees and the staff of most of such institutions would be prepared to make over their colleges to the Government. Whether the Government can afford to take them over is a different matter.

I, for one, am in a position to make this offer to the Government on behalf of my college. We are even prepared to make over all the assets of the college worth three to four lacs of rupees to the Government without any compensation.

All these days I have been hearing the hon. Members plead for more expenditure on rural population. I think the Government is not unaware of the novel experiment of running colleges in rural areas being tried in this State. There are only a few such colleges and ours is one of them. These colleges represent a purely rural enterprise started and financed by the ruralites by their own initiative. Is it not the duty of the Government to encourage such enterprises started by the villagers for their benefit? Do not such colleges deserve special and more liberal treatment from the Government so that their good example may be emulated by ruralites in other parts of the State.

In respect of the plea for giving better wages to the teachers, my submission is that they certainly deserve a better start. But I am not in agreement with those who advocate that the scales of pay of college professors should go up to a maximum of rupees one thousand or 1,500/- because if this is done, it will have its repercussions on the private colleges which will then not be able to secure the services of properly-qualified persons, being unable to meet their demands for more or less similar scales of pay. The cause of education will thus receive a set-back because private colleges will have to be closed down for want of adequate staff. So while revising the scales of pay of lecturers in Government colleges, this aspect of the problem is to be kept in mind. As regards the initial pay, I am convinced that it is inadequate and unattractive and the demand to have it raised is quite legitimate. Take, for instance, the case of B. T. and S. A. V. teachers. The start of Rs. 90/- for them is a poor one. Persons in possession of such high qualifications get a much better start in other Government Departments.

[Principal Harbhajan Singh]

In my opinion the starting pay of the teachers should be Rs. 130/- per mensem. There are a very few professional colleges in the State. For instance, there is only one Medical College and one Engineering College. The number of such colleges should be increased. Besides, there is a paucity of girls' schools in the State. Whereas educational facilities for higher education exist in towns, there are not even middle schools for girls in the villages. There is one middle school for girls in my village and I have requested the authorities several times to raise it to the status of a high school but the Government has not taken any action in the matter. The authorities are insisting upon the strict fulfilment of all the conditions necessary for the opening of high schools, such as a specified number of rooms in the building, and open ground of particular dimensions. In spite of the fact that this school has a spacious ground adjoining it, our request has not been acceded to. The girls leaving this school who are in a position to continue their studies further find it very difficult to do so as no high school for girls is located in that vicinity. It appears that the Government has not assessed the real needs of this area otherwise it would not have ignored the proposal of converting this school into a high school. These girls are keen to get higher education but they are seriously handicapped on account of the lack of necessary educational facilities. Even in the Government Girls High School, Jullundur, admission is refused to the girls from the mofussil to their great disappointment. The same is the case with other schools also which conveniently refuse admission on the ground that they have got accommodation for fifty girls only. The Government should rise to the occasion and try to do its best to extend adequate educational facilities for the education of the girls. I have accommodated all those girls in my college who had passed the Matriculation Examination as private students and were aspirants for higher education. They have preferred to have their education on the co-education system as there is no Girls' College. I am of the view that there is no harm in co-education provided the head of the institution exercises strict vigilance and control over the students.

It is a pity that whereas there are so many schools for boys to receive education for the development of their mental faculties, the girls are being left behind in the race for progress. Girls have now developed a keen desire to equip themselves with higher education and are trying hard to compete with boys by putting in hard labour which is required in higher and more serious education.

Moreover, there has been of late a tendency among young men to refuse to enter into matrimonial alliance with illiterate girls. This has indirectly given an impetus to the spread of higher education among the girls. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should open new schools for girls in a large number even if it may have to close down schools for boys. Besides this, I will suggest that there should be some college where top-most students from all schools according to their Matriculation Examination results are admitted. The students who may feel reluctant to come to such a college because of financial difficulty may be given Government help to do so. As all the students in such a college will be the most brilliant students they will be able to make rapid strides in education under the guidance of a capable staff.

Moreover, the number of scholarships to students going abroad for higher studies should be increased. Also effort should be made to collect money for enforcing the scheme of free compulsory primary education in the State. There is a paucity of trained agriculture and drawing teachers. Arrangements should be made for the training of such teachers.

Moreover, there has been an insistent demand from all quarters that the present system of education be renovated according to the material needs of the State. There is one school of thought which favours the old system of education, that is, of Guru and Shishya, as it was prevalent in the olden times which aimed at the moral and cultural development of the pupils. Such people are of the opinion that India would profit much more by switching back to her ancient culture than by imbibing the education of the West. The second school of thought, however, favours the type of education which is being imparted in other advanced countries. According to them, the old system would appear strange in this age when the whole world is sweeping forward in an irresistible tide of material advancement. Under these circumstances, it would be better if we follow a mid-way course and adopt whatever is best in both the systems. Then, Sir, I can say from my experience of over 37 years as a teacher that the way in which education is being imparted to the students in schools and colleges is highly unsatisfactory. Government institutions are worse off in this respect. I would, therefore, draw the attention of the hon Minister for Education to the fact that he should see that whatever money is allotted for education is properly utilised.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (Punjabi); Sir, today we have under discussion the important subject of education. I would also like to express my views about our system of education. After having passed 32 years in foreign countries, I came back to my own country only 9 years ago. My whole career has been a political one and now the people have sent me to this Legislature to represent them. Some of my friends have referred to the progress made by Russia and other countries in the sphere of education. I might inform the House that under the regime of the Czars, education was given no more importance than the salt in the food. The Czars of Russia were of the view that as an excess of salt is bad so is the case with an excess of education. But, things changed completely with the establishment of the People Rule in Russia. In that very Russia, 100% of the people's are literate today, industries are flourishing, landlordism does not exist and capitalism has been abolished.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : No propaganda, please

Sardar Nidhan Singh: This is not propaganda, I am stating hard facts. Sir, what I want to suggest is that while doing away with evil things we should not hesitate to borrow good things from other countries. Our system of education is rotten from top to bottom and is in need of radical reform. While teaching history to the students in Russia, emphasis is laid on the condition of the people in different periods and the reasons for the deposition of unpopular kings. Here the case is the reverse. In our country, history is a mere chronicle of kings and their genealogies.

Now, Sir, the number of schools functioning in our State is wholly inadequate and so is the wage of the teachers and the professors. The rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer. The children of the working classes whether of the towns or of the villages have to remain without education, nay, even without food. The Government is not giving them a fair deal. My friends should banish this thought from their minds that we are propagandists of a foreign country. We are certainly indulging in propaganda but that propaganda is about the prosperity, the well-being and the progress of this country and about nothing else. Our administration is top-heavy. The salaries of the officers are fat. No heed is paid to the urgent problem of banishing poverty from the country. It is our imperative demand that the system of education should be radically reformed and the salaries of the lower officials increased. Corruption should also be uprooted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please speak on education.

Sardar Nidhan Singh : Yes Sir, I am speaking on education. When the Communist armies captured Shanghai, they directed the prostitutes to give up their profession and assured them of other work to earn their living. Mahatma Gandhi was also of the view that while doing away with the evils we should not fight shy of emulating the good example of other countries. We also hold this view.

Shri Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (Hindi) : Sir, the real problem before us is not to compare the money spent on education last year and the demand proposed in this year's Budget. What calls for our immediate attention is whether our education policy is good, bad suited or unsuited to the conditions and environments of our State. The responsibility of framing the policy of education rests with the Government. What the Education Department is concerned with is to implement the policies framed by the Government. Now, we have to assess the educational policy of our Government.

It is a matter for great regret that in fact we have no definite policy. Our system of education is the outcome of an haphazard growth with no clear and logical aims and objects. We send our children to the schools without planning or thinking about the career that we want them to pursue after their education. In many cases the parents send the child to the school just to have a little relief from the headache that he causes them by his repeated mischiefs. What a pity it is, Sir, that even in the matter of education we should have no clear-cut aim or design to guide us or to help us plan the career of our children. It is our greatest misfortune that while sending out children for getting education no object is kept in view. We have to change this state of affairs radically and formulate a clear-cut educational policy keeping in view our needs. In this connection, we have first to inquire as to the number of persons in our State whom we need for different professions, for manning Civil Services, Medical profession, Engineering, Agriculture and so on. Therefore, Sir, I urge that so long as the education is not planned the increase in expenditure, however great it might be, will make no appreciable difference.

For this purpose, Sir, we will have to overhaul the present system and mould it according to some design, suitable to the needs of our country. Our ideal of education should be the Sarvodaya

[Shri Sher Singh]

system. The only useful purpose which the present system of education serves is that it develops the intellect of our young men but not enough. We cannot expect a mediocre graduate of today to write two pages correctly in any language. He is not able to write either in Hindi or in English. The present collegiate education is only fit to impart intellectual training to the students. It is producing only 'Cartoons' instead of producing harmoniously developed young men. Sir, if these young products of the universities of today are compared with illiterate young men, I doubt if either of them will be found fit for the battle of life. On the other hand, we find that an illiterate person of the same age is healthier and stronger. As a matter of fact, a college or school student should have better physique than an illiterate boy, since he lives in healthier environment, gets better diet and clothing. But we find that he is not even able to develop his health during the 14 years of his studies though thousands of rupees are spent upon his diet and education. The fault lies in this system of education which is lop-sided. In this system, a graduate is not even able to develop his character. Sir, if we compare a University product with an ordinary illiterate ruralite, we shall find no difference in so far as the development of health and character is concerned. The latter will conduct himself better in many aspects of life. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Ministers to take early steps to improve the present system of education. That education is useless which is not capable of giving sound health and sound character to our young men, along with intellectual development.

Then, Sir, we are so much enamoured of the word 'secularism' that we are totally ignoring the religious and moral side of education. I agree that the imparting of instruction in the religion of a particular community can have no place in the educational institutions of a secular State. What I want to suggest to the Government is that it must arrange to teach our younger generation the principles common to all religions. With this end in view, we should make the pupils study say, for instance, what is truth with quotations from all the religious books such as the Vedas, the Bible, the Bhagvad Gita the Quran-i-sharif and the Guru Granth Sahib which are products of master minds.

Then, Sir, it has been said by some of our highly placed officials and Ministers also that there should be no separate high schools and colleges for boys and girls. According to them, both boys and girls

should be made to study in the same institution as this will result in a great saving in expenditure. Sir, through you, I want to point out to them that the people of countries, like Russia also who were very enthusiastic about introducing co-education have decided after practical experience to discontinue it in their country as it has not suited them. There, the students are not allowed to smoke, what to say of drinking. The people of that country are educating their children to help them to build up a high moral character.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to introduce such a system of education as may be calculated to raise the morals of the younger generation. The basis of our system of education should be a high standard of morality so that our educational institutions should be in a position to produce young men with a high moral character. But, Sir, we can achieve it only if we are able to attract very capable and good men to the education department and for that it is necessary for us to pay the school teachers and college professors well. There is a demand that the employees of the schools and colleges should also get the same grades of pay as the officers of other departments. They feel that their department is considered to be an inferior department. Our Government should work on the principle of equal pay for equal qualification. There is no reason for giving a third class graduate who is appointed as a Tehsildar a start of Rs. 270/- p. m. as against a first class trained graduate who gets only a start of Rs. 90/- p. m. in the Education Department. This naturally results in heart-burning and inefficiency among the teachers. I, therefore, request the Government to give a lead to the whole country by adopting the principle of equal pay for equal qualifications irrespective of the department in which a particular employee works.

Sir, my submission is that if we accept the principle of equal pay for equal qualifications, there would be no ground for any complaint whatsoever. In this Budget, there are certain items which constitute an improvement on the previous Budgets, so far as education is concerned. Of course, some efforts have been made in the matter of providing some sort of relief to the poor teachers. But I cannot understand why the department has tried to deceive the teachers by merging the grades and saving money this year. Previously, a teacher could expect to get promotion to the next higher grade after a service of about eight years and as a matter of fact about thirty-five per cent of the teachers did get it in due course.

[Shri Shei Singh]

The Anglo Vernacular teachers in the grade of Rs. 90-5-150 could expect to get the grade of Rs. 150-10-220 after a service of about eight years. But now after the merging of the grades, a teacher will not be able to get Rs. 150 before having put in twelve years of service. Similar is the case with the Vernacular teachers. It has been stated in favour of this amalgamation that after a period of about fifteen to twenty years, the Government will be giving to the teachers an increased sum of Rs. 6½ lakhs. But is it not a fact that by holding such a distant hope the Government has saved Rs. 10,656 this year? A third grade teacher who can expect to get Rs. 105 after a service of say seven years under the old system will be getting only Rs. 71 under this scheme of amalgamation. Thus he will have to bear a loss of about 34 rupees p. m. for a number of years. An Anglo Vernacular teacher who may hope to get Rs. 150 after eight years will under the new scales of pay be getting Rs. 130 at the end of that period. This will mean a loss of Rs. 20 p. m. to him. About thirty five per cent of the teachers who get such promotions under the existing arrangement will meet this fate if the proposed scheme is put into practice. I hope the Government will do something substantial for the teachers. Such schemes as these are not going to give substantial relief to them. With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri Sant Ram (Nakodar) (Punjabi): Sir, I wish to bring one or two things to the notice of the hon. Members in connection with the Education Department. In the first place, I should thank the Government for the provision of a sum of rupees five and a half lakhs in the Budget for the uplift of the Harijans and for the promotion of education among them. This backward community deserves every kind of help from the Government and it is the duty of those who are in power today to provide relief to them and to strive to raise their standard of living. The last Congress Government had sanctioned certain scholarships for the Harijan students but the amount of such scholarships was so small that it was not possible for such students to pull on with it. A college student is given Rs. 15 only. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that this amount is too inadequate for a Harijan boy coming from a village to meet the expenses of his education in a city college. If we try to calculate the expenses of a college student, the minimum expenditure with which he can pull through will be found to be not less than rupees forty per month. If a student is exempted from the payment of fees, even then the

expenditure can in no case be less than rupees thirty per month. He has to meet hostel expenses ; he has to buy books and clothes, he has to take meals and if possible, milk. Under these circumstances, I would suggest that at least rupees thirty should be paid in the form of scholarship to a Harijan student studying in the F. A.; forty rupees to a student of the B. A.; and fifty rupees to a student of the M. A. class. These are the minimum amounts that can go to meet the expenses of such students receiving education in the colleges. It is a well-known fact that the condition of Harijans in the villages is very bad. They have no sources of income and they do not possess any lands. A Harijan boy reading in the ninth class is given a scholarship of rupees six only. This amount does not go even to meet his pocket expenses. I would like to suggest that the amount of scholarship should increase by rupee one with the promotion of the recipient to the next class up to his passing the Matriculation examination. It has been stated by the hon. Ministers that Government is short of money, otherwise they would very much have liked to spend liberally on education. My submission is that if the funds at the disposal of the Government are meagre, they should resort to such measures of augmenting their revenue as nationalisation of such activities as may yield income to the State treasury. Not only Transport but also mills, Film Industry, factories and land should be nationalized. Income accruing from these sources may well be utilized for the benefit of the backward classes and persons in the State.

I would, therefore, impress upon the Government that if it wants to ameliorate the lot of the Harijans and raise their standard of living, it should nationalise the bigger industries. I am of the opinion that income from these sources would be sufficient to meet the expenditure that is necessary for the uplift of the Harijans and the liquidation of illiteracy. I hope the Government would give careful consideration to my suggestions.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (Punjabi): Sir, it is a matter for gratification that the Government has made a provision of Rs. 5,700/- for the education of the backward classes. I am, however, constrained to remark that despite the fact that the Government has passed orders for the remission of fees of Harijan boys right from the first primary to the M. A. classes, the Headmasters of the schools refuse to admit students of Harijan as well as other backward classes in their institutions and if at all they allow them admission, they flatly refuse to grant them the remission in

[Sardar Khem Singh]

fees. When those Harijan boys bring their applications to me, I forward them to the Headmaster concerned with my recommendation to do the needful. But the Headmasters pay no heed to such applications or recommendations and refuse to remit the fees or admit the applicants on the ground that the Government does not give the institutions concerned sufficient grants. I would, therefore, request the Government to issue clear instructions to the Headmasters of the schools in the State not only to admit the Harijan boys but also to remit their fees.

In this connection, I may also point out that the provision made in the Budget for this purpose is not enough. It should be considerably enhanced so that a larger number of Harijan boys may be able to receive adequate help for the prosecution of their studies. In this connection, there is an important point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government. As you are aware, Sir, the Government has been pleased to issue instructions for remitting the fees of the Harijans from the first primary class but it has not made any provision for the award of scholarships to them from the same class. At present, the Harijan students are given scholarships from the 9th class. My submission is that the financial condition of the parents of these boys is so poor that they cannot afford to meet the expenses on education of their children. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Education to see that the students belonging to the backward classes not only receive scholarships from the first primary class but are also supplied with books and writing material free of cost.

Then, Sir, at the time of the Entrance Examination, Harijan boys are asked to pay the admission fee to the University. As I have already stated, their parents cannot afford to pay this amount; so, they are often debarred from taking the examination. This is really a great hardship to them. I would request the Government to grant them the concession of remission of University examination fees. They should be exempted from the payment of this amount.

Then, Mr. Speaker, whereas ample educational facilities are made available to the children of the urbanites and there are several colleges and schools in the towns, I find that no such facilities are within the reach of the poor village boys and it is well-nigh impossible for them to get education. I am aware

that the Government is making arrangements for the formation of units consisting of four to five villages with a view to opening primary schools. Although this is a commendable measure, yet I feel that it falls far short of the needs of the illiterate masses. I would, therefore, suggest that Government should take steps to open schools in every village, where the children should receive free education.

In this connection, I have to make another suggestion and that is with regard to the opening of schools in the State for imparting education to the illiterate adults. As our masses are steeped in illiteracy, it is essential to introduce adult education, facilities for which should be made available both in the rural as well as the urban areas. It is a matter of common knowledge that Patwaris, small sahuikars and other officials take advantage of the ignorance of the poor kisans and fleece them while dealing with them. In view of this, I would impress upon the Government the desirability of opening schools for adults particularly in rural areas.

Then I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the fact that there is no high school in such big villages as Verka and Jaintipura. The people of Jaintipura have offered to provide land for the building of such a school. I would request the hon. Minister for Education to arrange for the construction of the building of a very much-needed high school in these villages. I hope he will be good enough to see that the needful is done at a very early date so that the students of the villages concerned are saved of the hardship which they are now undergoing in having to go to attend a high school at a distant place.

Now, I would like to say something about the sad plight of the teachers in our State. It is an admitted fact that the teacher is the real builder of the nation. It is he who moulds the life of our children. All the gentlemen who are occupying the ministerial 'gaddis' and holding high posts are the handiwork of that poor teacher whom we eulogise much but for whom we do little. It is a matter of gratification that the Government has revised the grades of the teachers and tried to improve their lot. But the new arrangement of time-scales has one lacuna in it. The starting pay fixed under the revised grades is inadequate. It should be raised. If the Government puts forward the plea of financial stringency, then I would suggest that the salaries of high officers should be reduced and the savings

[Sardar Khem Singh]

thus effected should be utilised for increasing the starting pay of the teachers.

Then, Sir, I find that the retirement age fixed by the Government of India is 60 years while our Government has fixed it at 55 years. I am of the opinion that the Punjab Government should also bring the retirement age of the services at par with that fixed by the Government of India. Needless to say that the experienced hands can be of greater utility to the Government than the raw and inexperienced ones. I hope the Government will give careful attention to this matter.

Well, Sir, the time at my disposal is short and so I will mention one point more and then finish. The buildings of schools in the villages are very often in a most dilapidated condition. A light shower of rain causes leakage in the roofs with the result that the teachers close the schools at once for want of any place sheltered from the rains. Consequently, the average of working days in these schools comes to 10 or 15 in a month during the rainy season. I would request the Government to make a liberal provision for the construction of the buildings of the schools in the villages to avoid interruption of the education of the children.

Shri Kesho Dass (Pathankot) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, after the perusal of the Budget, I find that the provision made by the Government for education is so small as compared with the ideal or goal that we have in view, namely, the liquidation of illiteracy from amidst the masses in the State, that I feel that if the Government continues to provide money at the present rate, it will take us about fifty years to achieve our much cherished goal. With a view to overcome the difficulty of the finance, I would like to make a suggestion and that is this. The Government should nationalise the lands in the villages for opening schools after paying due compensation to the owners. A reasonable area of land should be attached to every school. The sale proceeds of the produce from the land shall make the school a self-supporting institution. Besides, the students will take to industry or agriculture from the school stage and when they leave the school, they will be able to start small-scale or cottage industries by their own initiative.

There is another point which I want to suggest to the Government. You are aware, Sir, that the District Boards and Municipal Committees

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are ordinarily responsible for the spread of primary education but they are invariably faced with financial stringency. They have no funds to open enough schools. To provide them with more funds, I suggest that the proceeds of the octroi charges realised on goods coming from the villages to cities should go to the District Boards who should utilise this amount on the dissemination of education. This source of revenue should be reserved exclusively for them; no share should be given to the Municipal Committees. The Municipal Committee should be allowed to have receipts from octroi charged on goods coming from outside the district only. I am sure if this is done, the local bodies will be able to meet the expenditure necessary for the primary education in the villages as well as in the towns. I hope that at the end of five years, if my suggestion is translated into action our education programme will be well on its way to completion. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday, the 1st July 1952.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, the 1st July, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4, at 2 p. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPLEMENTARIES ON QUESTION No. *117.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : You will remember, Sir, that on the previous day you did not allow me to ask supplementary questions on question No. 117.† May I with your permission put these supplementary questions now ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member can put the supplementary questions now.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In the statement which has been supplied to me, it is stated that one gazetted officer was forced to proceed on leave preparatory to retirement. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether that officer was granted that preparatory leave with pay or without pay ?

Chief Minister : I require a fresh notice to answer this question.

SUPPLEMENTARIES ON QUESTION No. *131

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon Shri Ram Chandra to ask supplementaries on starred question No. 131, which were postponed the other day. But since he is not in his seat, we take up the next question on the list.

COMMUNIST DETENUS.

***46. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Communist detenues in the Punjab jails on 31st March, 1952 and on 20th May, 1952 respectively;

(b) the daily food and other allowances allowed to each of these detenues ?

† Government's reply to question No. 117* appears in the proceedings of 25th June, 1952.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) The number of Communist detenus in the Punjab jails on 31st March, 1952 was 57 and on 20th May, 1952, nil.

(b) The Communist detenus were allowed a diet allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 per day. They were also paid a lump-sum sundry allowance of Rs. 16 p.m. each for the purchase of clothing, toilet articles, newspapers etc. Besides this, the deserving cases were given subsistence allowance for their dependents.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether it is a fact that the treatment extended to these Communist detenus was better and the allowances given to them higher than those given in other States to similar detenus ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise out of the original question.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is it a fact that this allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 was never given and these detenus had to remain on hunger-strike for a month ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise.

CASES OF MURDER IN THE STATE

***47. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of murders committed in the State during the year 1951-52; and the number in which the murderers were traced;

(b) the number of convictions in traced cases ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Total number of murders committed in the year 1951 was 574 and in the year 1952 (up to the end of May, 1952) 235. The murderers were traced in 444 cases in the year 1951 and 163 cases in the year 1952 (up to 31st May, 1952).

(b) The number of convictions in 444 cases traced during the year 1951 was 141. The number of convictions in 163 cases of 1952 (up to 31st May, 1952) was 25.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister please state the reasons for the disparity in the number of convictions and the number of cases sent by the police for trial ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the other accused besides the 141 convicted were all acquitted ?

Chief Minister : I require a fresh notice to reply to this question.

GRANT OF FIRE-ARMS LICENCES IN THE STATE.

*120. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that during his tour of Kangra District, he was pleased to announce that licences for firearms for protection of crops against wild animals would be granted liberally and free of licence fees; if so, whether Government has issued any instructions to district authorities on these lines;

(b) whether he will place a copy of such instructions on the Table of the House ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Yes. Instructions to District Magistrates in the State have been issued to the effect that crop protection licences to bonafide cultivators should be granted liberally in form XIX of Scheduled VIII to the Indian Arms Rules, 1951 free of all fees.

(b) Does not arise.

Rai Raghuvir Singh: May I know whether the old licence fee has been charged or a new fee has been imposed ?

Chief Minister : Probably the hon. Member has not listened to the reply I have just read out. It is stated therein that instructions to District Magistrates in the State have been issued that crop protection licences to bonafide cultivators should be granted free of all fees.

VISITS BY CHIEF MINISTER IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR

*191. **Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that he visited Khwospur Rest House, Thana Vairawal, District Amritsar, on 24th May 1952 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of the villages Munda Pind, Janbal and Jama Rai, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar, were forcibly dragged by the local police together to welcome the Chief Minister ;

(c) whether it is a fact that any one pleading inability to present himself for the welcome was beaten and assaulted by the police, with the result that Harnam Singh, son of Bishan Singh, Hajam, received severe injuries on the left arm ; Shankar Dass, Brahman and Dulha Singh received injuries on the arms ; Boor Singh and a relative of his who had come to see him

[Sardar Darshan Singh]

were both assaulted and besides these the following men beaten by the police :—

Mangal Singh Korka, Sham Singh Mehra, Sapuran Singh, Kahan Singh, Sulakhan Singh, Amar Singh, Sohan Singh and Kundan Singh of village Munda Pind ; and Tara Singh son of Channan Singh, Daya Singh son of Saudagar Singh, Mohinder Singh son of Wadhawa Singh, Jaswant Rai son of Mehru Ram, Tara Singh son of Kalu Mazhabi and Harbhajan Singh son of Harnam Singh ;

(d) whether these facts have come to the notice of the Government ; if so, the action taken, or he contemplates taking in this matter ; if not, why not ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) No ; does not arise.

REPRESENTATION FROM ACHHAR SINGH SON OF NARAIN
SINGH OF VILLAGE JHABHAL, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

*192. **Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has received a representation from Achhar Singh son of Narain Singh, a retired Army Havaldar and Military Pensioner of village Jhabhal, District Amritsar, in the first week of May, 1952 complaining that in the month of April he was arrested and imprisoned by mistake, in place of another Achhar Singh, a Communist worker of the same name and same village ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in jail he was given hard labour ;

(c) Whether it is a fact that after spending some days in jail he made a representation to the Jail Superintendent who on going through the jail records discovered that the real Achhar Singh whom the police wanted had been a Communist detenu in the Amritsar jail, and was at that time a detenu in Ambala jail ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Jail Superintendent had taken Achhar Singh son of Narain Singh before the Duty Magistrate, who instead of setting him at liberty again sent him back to jail ;

(e) whether it is a fact that on this his nephew who was employed in the police force made a representation to the Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, to the effect that his uncle was in jail by mistake in place of another person ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Police who saw him and compared him with a photograph of the real Achhar Singh the Communist worker also discovered that he was not the wanted man ;

(g) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent Police had taken him again before the Duty Magistrate who again sent him back to jail ;

(h) whether it is also a fact that at last he was released on 21st April, 1952 when the authorities discovered that the real Achhar Singh was all the time a detenu in Ambala jail ;

(i) whether Government has taken or contemplates taking any action on the complaint made in the letter referred to in part (c) above, if so ; what if not, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, representation was received.

(d) Achhar Singh was sent by the Superintendent Jail to the Duty Magistrate who ordered him to be produced before the Ilaka Magistrate.

(e) His nephew Darbara Singh brought the facts to the notice of senior police officers on 17th April, 1952.

(f) No. The necessary verification was done by a Police Inspector.

(g) No.

(h) After enquiries, police discovered that Achhar Singh had been arrested under a bonafide mistake of fact and so his discharge was recommended on 18th April, 1952. He was released on 21st April, 1952 by a competent Magistrate.

(i) The matter is under enquiry.

[Chief Minister]

Brief facts of the case are as follows :—

One Achhar Singh son of Narain Singh, Jat, of Jhabal, a Communist was detained under the P. D. Act on 18th February 1951. While under detention in Ambala jail, he was prosecuted for an offence committed earlier under Section 225 (B) Indian Penal Code and was sentenced, along with his 6 co-accused in this case to 6 months rigorous imprisonment on 31st July, 1951. Achhar Singh and all his co-accused went up in appeal and the Sessions Judge released them all on interim bail pending the disposal of the appeal. Achhar Singh being a detenu was not released and remained in the jail. In appeal the conviction was upheld but the sentence was reduced to 3 months rigorous imprisonment each and the convicts had to be recommitted to jail. As Achhar Singh was already in jail, the Additional Sessions Judge on 5th March, 1952 sent his commitment warrant to the Superintendent, District Jail Amritsar, to pass it on to the Superintendent District Jail, Jullundur, as he had been transferred there by them. This warrant was returned by the Superintendent, District jail, Jullundur, to the Sessions Judge, Amritsar, with the report that the convict had been released on bail, which was incorrect. Consequently, the Sessions Judge, Amritsar, issued orders on 13th March 1952, that Achhar Singh should be re-arrested and committed to jail to serve out his sentence. As a result of this order the Ilaka Magistrate issued non-bailable warrant for the arrest of Achhar Singh son of Narain Singh, Jat, of Jhabhal. Consequently the Jhabhal Police arrested Achhar Singh referred to in the Assembly Question on 14th April, 1952 whose parentage, caste and residence were incidentally identical with those of Achhar Singh detenu and committed him to the judicial custody. This Achhar Singh, while in jail, made a representation to the Superintendent Jail on 15th April, 1952 that he was not the wanted person. On this the necessary enquiries were made and as a result thereof the complainant was discharged on 21st April 1952. All this was very unfortunate but was due to bonafide mistake.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Will the Government award any punishment to those responsible for the mistake and compensation to the person detained without any cause ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

—————

**CONFISCATION OF RIFLES BY THE OFFICER INCHARGE
BORDER DEFENCE.**

***193. Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that on 18th March, 1952 the Officer Incharge, Border Defence confiscated the rifles issued for village defence to :

Harbans Singh, Sumand Singh, Veer Singh, Sajjan Singh, Harbans Singh, son of Mohar Singh, Massa Singh, Gurnam Singh and Suba Singh of village Chhina Bidi Chand, Thana Jhabhal, District Amritsar ;

(b) the reasons for the confiscation of their rifles ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Yes.

(b) The rifles were confiscated with a view to minimising the risk of possible use of these weapons in border crime. These men were suspected to be indulging in smuggling and of having contact with Pakistani smugglers.

— — —

DACOITY CASES.

***246 Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of dacoity cases registered districtwise by the Police in the State during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52.

(b) the number of such cases which are still untraced ;

(c) the number of cases in which convictions have been secured in the lower courts ;

(d) the number of cases in which such convictions were set aside on appeal to higher courts ;

(e) the number of cases in which the accused were either acquitted or discharged by the lower courts ?

[Chief Minister]

(a) to (e) a statement containing the required information is given below.—

Starred Question No. 246

Districts	(a) The total number of dacoity cases registered districtwise by the Police in the State during :—			(b) The number of such cases which are still untraced :—			(c) The number of such cases in which convictions have been secured in the lower courts :—			(d) The number of cases in which such convictions were set aside on appeal to higher courts :—			(e) The number of cases in which the accused were either acquitted or discharged by the lower courts :—		
	1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952
	(upto 31st May, 1952)			(upto 31st May, 1952)			(upto 31st May, 1952)			(upto 31st May, 1952)			(upto 31st May, 1952)		
Hissar	6	11	4	3	2	Nil	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Rohtak	4	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Gurgaon	5	3	2	1	1	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Karnal	9	7	7	5	1	Nil	1	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil
Ambala	10	14	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Simla	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kangra	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hoshiarpur	9	4	1	4	4	1	3	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Jullundur	5	7	1	2	7	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ludhiana	13	9	2	4	4	Nil	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Ferozepur	3	6	5	3	3	1	4	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Amritsar	10	8	2	6	6	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil
Gurdaspur	13	11	1	8	6	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	3	Nil
Total	87	82	26	38	35	3	20	8	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	15	5	Nil

ENTERING THE NAMES OF POLITICAL WORKERS AS
"BADAMASHES" IN REGISTER NUMBER 10.

*250. **Sardar Nidhan Singh** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of inhabitants of village Jhabal whose names have been entered in Register No. 10 by the Police ;

(b) whether the Government has considered the advisability of stopping the practice of entering names in such Register ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) There are 6 inhabitants of village Jhabal whose names have been entered in Register No 10 by the Police.

(b) No.

LICENCES FOR FIREARMS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*132. **Shri Ram Chandra Comrade** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that jungles infested with wild animals abound all over in Kangra District who destroy the crops and sometimes even kill animals ; if so, the action so far taken by the Government in the matter ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(i) Yes.

(ii) In order to save crops from the wild animals Government have already issued orders to all the District Magistrates (including the District Magistrate of Kangra) for the liberal issue of crop protection licences to bonafide cultivators. There are 6715 Arms licences in the Kangra District. This number include 196 Crop Protection licences.

GROW MORE FOOD SCHEME.

*190. **Sardar Chanan Singh** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount of money spent on the Grow More Food scheme during the years 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 ;

(b) the amount out of the above given each year to landholders with holdings :—

(i) above 100 standard acres ;

[Sardar Chanan Singh]

(ii) between 50 and 100 standard acres ;

(iii) between 25 and 50 standard acres ;

(iv) between 10 and 25 standard acres ;

(v) below 10 standard acres.

(c) the amount granted, districtwise, under this scheme for purchase of seeds, manure and implements to peasants holding under 10 acres ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

Year	Rs.
(a) (i) 1948-49	14,93,379
(ii) 1949-50	1,56,96,894
(iii) 1950-51	1,91,69,200
(iv) 1951-52	2,12,46,527

(b) Loans were advanced as follows to zamindars for the sinking of percolation wells and purchase of tractors. Loans are being disbursed for purchase of pumping-sets :—

	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
For sinking of wells ...	92,855	22,21,927	18,98,385	12,00,000
For purchase of tractors...	...	...	40,00,000	...
For purchase of pumping-sets...	...	...	...	10,00,000

Information is not available about the amount advanced to each category of landholder.

(c) No loans are given for purchase of seeds, manure and implements.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY GENERATED AT JOGINDER NAGAR.

*133. **Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) the volume of electricity produced in Joginder Nagar ;

(b) the volume supplied to Pakistan, the rate at which it is supplied and the total income on that account ;

(c) the volume supplied to parts of India with its rate and the income therefrom ;

(d) the volume supplied to District Kangra and the places from where it is supplied ;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that people of Kangra in general, and almost all important villages of Nurpur Tehsil and the Nurpur town itself are asking for the supply of electricity for industrial and domestic purposes ;

(f) the steps Government proposes to take to meet this demand of the public ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) The average maximum demand of electric energy generated at Joginder Nagar during 1951-52 was 32,100 K. W. However, the maximum demand went up to 35,000 K. W. during the year.

(b) It is not in the public interest to give reply.

(c) The maximum demand supplied to the various towns in the Punjab (India) during the year 1951-52 reached a figure of 24,500 K. W. The rates for supply of power vary according to the load connected and energy consumed and are based on the tariffs in force. The maximum rates for the different categories of consumers are, however, as under :—

Serial No.	Category.	Maximum rate per unit.
1.	General Supply Consumers.	0-5-0 nett.
2.	Industrial do	18 pies.
3.	Bulk do	23.5 pies.
4.	Street Lighting.	0-2-0

The total revenue assessed during 1951-52 in respect of supply from Uhl River H. E. Scheme was Rs. 71.04 lakhs odd which is subject to final adjustment in accounts.

(d) The total connected load in Kangra District in the Local Distribution Schemes at Kangra, Old Kangra, Yol Camp, Lower Dharamsala, Upper Dharamsala, Baijnath Paprola, Palampur and Nagrota is 1691 K. W. The supply to the above-mentioned towns is made from the Grid sub-station at Kangra.

(e) Yes.

Supply to the towns and villages in the Kangra District, mentioned under (d) above, has already been made.

[Minister for Irrigation]

Project estimate for the transmission line between Pathankot and Nurpur, local distribution in Nurpur town, Nurpur Road Railway Station, Jandwal and Mamun villages has already been sanctioned and provisions for its construction made in the Budget for 1952-53. Any other villages enroute, supply to which may be found financially justifiable, will also be provided with electric connections.

(f) As per reply to item (e) above. Load surveys of other areas in the Kangra District are being carried out and wherever any extension is found financially justifiable, necessary estimates will be prepared and works taken in hand after sanction of the competent authority. Sufficient transformer capacity is available at the Grid sub-stations at Pathankot and Kangra.

Shri Sri Chand : Is it a fact that Pakistan has not so far paid the money due from it on account of the electricity consumed by it ?

Minister : It is not in public interest to disclose this.

SUNDAR BRANCH CANAL.

*169. **Shri Sri Chand :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of the Sundar Branch Canal being made perennial ; if so, how long it will take to make it perennial ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes. The Sundar Branch is expected to be made perennial sometime next year.

SUNDAR BRANCH CANAL.

*170. **Shri Sri Chand :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of the Government for increasing the supply of water in the Sundar Branch Canal ; if so, the details of such scheme and the time when it would materialize together with the names of villages, districtwise, and the area of land that will be irrigated ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is proposed to convert Sundar Branch into a perennial channel as soon as the Jagadhri Tubewell Scheme is completed. For extending Kharif irrigation on Sundar Branch, three schemes have been

sanctioned and another two are under investigation. Details of such schemes are as follows :—

Statement showing details of Irrigation Scheme .

S. No.	Name of the Scheme.	Names of villages Districtwise.		Approximate cost.	Culturable command- ed area.	Date of comple- tion.	Remarks
		Name of District	Name of villages.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Constructing Dhaman Minor (lift channel) from R. D. 157000-R of Sundar Distributary.	Hissar	1. Ruhnat 2. Umra 3. Sultanpur 4. Dhamana 5. Guzar 6. Ahuj Raj 7. Kuari	Rs. 2,10,000	Acres 7,267	1952-53	
2.	Constructing Siman Sub-Minor (lift channel) to take off from R. D. 16750-R of Mali Sub-Minor of Sundar Sub-Branch.	Rohtak	1. Siman 2. Bedwa 1. Puthi	1,31,000	4,734	1952-53	
3.	Extending Talu Sub-Minor of Sundar Distri- butary.	Hissar	1. Prem Nagar 2. Tigrana	13,400	601	1952-53	
4.	Extending tail Talu Sub-Minor of Sundar Distributary.	Hissar	1. Khosra 2. Tigrana 3. Taga 4. Dang Khurd 5. Dang Kalan 6. Prem Nagar 7. Bapura	6,40,000	16,000	1953-54	
5.	Extension of Baklana Minor from R. D. 20000 to 35000 of Sundar Distributary.	Hissar	1. Bas Azam Shahpur 2. Bas Badshahpur 3. Bas Bas Khurd 4. Ugalan 5. Badala 6. Kharbala	42,500	1,700	1953-54	

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, I have not been supplied with a copy of the statement which the Minister has laid on the Table of the House.

Minister : Hon. Member's signature acknowledging receipt of a copy of the statement is with the Secretary, Punjab State Legislature.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The hon. Minister has stated that this matter will be attended to after the scheme of boring tube wells has been completed. May I know the number of tube wells bored so far ?

Minister : The hon. Member will get that information today in connection with another question.

CLOSURE OF UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL.

***188. Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state : —

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar Branch, remained closed for nearly eighteen days, from the end of March 1952, to 15th April 1952;

(b) whether the Government is further aware of the fact that as a result of this untimely stoppage of water, green fodder was ruined, the yield of wheat decreased considerably, the sowing of fodder, sugarcane, cotton, etc., was delayed in thousands of acres fed by the canal in Gurdaspur and Amritsar Districts ;

(c) the reasons for this stoppage and the action, if any, taken by the Government in this connection ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Upper Bari Doab Canal remained closed for 12 days from 1st April 1952 to 13th April 1952.

(b) and (c) Every canal has to be closed once a year for the purpose of carrying out essential closure works both in the river and in the canal. Usually, this closure is done in the month of January. This year,

however, due to insufficient winter rains, the demand for canal water supply was very keen. Consequently, no closure was made in the month of January and the canal was kept continuously running till the 31st March 1952, thereby the Rabi crops received all the water that was available in the river. Demand for irrigation during the month of April is very slack and very little watering is done to Rabi crops in this period. Due to the closure period mentioned in (a) above, no damage was caused to either green fodder or wheat crop, nor can this be a cause for reduction in the sowings of fodder, sugarcane, cotton, etc. In fact if the essential closure works had not been done it would not have been possible to run the Upper Bari Doab Canal with as high supplies as is the case at present. The extra supplies run in the canal have resulted in thousands of acres of additional cultivation of the Kharif crops and should amply recompense for the slight interruption in supply due to the closure.

NEW TOWNSHIPS.

***48. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to State :—

(a) the number of New Townships built by the Government in the State ;

(b) the number of houses in each township ;

(c) the number of houses occupied by the refugees in each of these townships ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : The required information is as follows :—

(a) Fourteen New Townships in all have been developed in the State, wherein 3929 houses have been constructed. Besides, fourteen Cheap Housing Colonies have also been established in the State and 2598 cheap houses have been completed and 600 are under construction in these colonies.

[Minister for Finance]

(b)

Name of New Town- ship/Cheap Housing Colony	New Townships		Cheap Housing Colonies	
	No. of houses constructed		No. of houses completed	No. of houses under cons- truction
	By Govern- ment	By purchasers of plots		
1. Hissar ...	30	45	149	..
2. Rohtak ..	200	167	249	...
3. Sonapat ...	200	73	100	100
4. Gurgoon ...	200	159	..	300
5. Palwal ..	200	12	100	..
6. Rewari ..	298	1	..	...
7. Karnal ..	500	125	200	...
8. Panipat ..	498	110	150	...
9. Ambala ..	26	96	300	...
10. Jagadhri ..	402	101	250	100
11. Hoshiarpur ..	200	23	...	..
12. Jullundur ...	500	311	350	..
13. Ludhiana ...	473	438	200	100
14. Khanna ...	202	...	..	..
15. Pathankot ...	..	..	200	...
16. Batala ..	...	..	150	..
17. Bhiwani ..	..	...	200	..
Total	3929	1661	2598	600

(c)

Name of New Town- ship/Cheap Housing Colony	New Townships		Cheap Housing Colonies
	No. of houses (constructed by Government) sold to displaced per- sons	No. of houses leased out to dis- placed persons	No. of houses sold to displaced persons
1. Hissar ..	1	...	2
2. Rohtak ..	86	52	195
3. Sonapat ...	200	..	100
4. Gurgaon ...	200	...	...
5. Palwal ..	13	187*	96
6. Rewari ...	9	258*	..
7. Karnal ..	306	53	196
8. Panipat ..	348	108	106
9. Ambala ...	7	..	231
10. Jagadhri .	402	..	250
11. Hoshiarpur	51	..	..
12. Jullundur ...	498	2	192
13. Ludhiana ...	473	..	200
14. Khanna ...	30	166*	...
15. Pathankot ..	..	..	200
	2714†	826	1768

* 187, 258 and 166 houses are providing roof shelter to aged and infirm displaced persons in the infirmaries established at Palwal, Rewari and Khanna respectively.

† In addition to this number the houses constructed by purchasers of plots are property of displaced persons.

RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

*119. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee in its report for the year 1950—51 recommended to the Government to disallow all kinds of special pays, allowances, etc., to Government servants in receipt of a salary exceeding Rs. 1,000 ; if so, the decision, if any, so far taken by the Government in the matter ;

(b) whether the Government will lay on the Table a statement showing the special pays and allowances drawn by each of the Government servants together with the total amount paid during the years 1950—51 and 1951—52 ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) Yes. The Budget Speech contains full information as to this Government's attitude and policy on the subject.

(b) In view of the decision announced in the Budget Speech the hon. Member will perhaps not wish to push for the information asked for by him, as this will take considerable time to collect.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state the total amount paid to the Government servants in the form of allowances ?

Minister : If the hon. Member is interested in finding out the total amount paid to the Government servants in regard to some particular allowance, he may take the trouble of giving a fresh notice.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I am certainly interested in finding out the total amount paid to the Government servants both in the form of special pays and allowances and I would appreciate it very much if a statement containing the above information is supplied to me.

Minister : I have got information in connection with special pays drawn by the Government servants. But with regard to allowances, I may tell him that there are various types of allowances such as Dearness Allowance, Compensatory Allowance, Hill Allowance and unless and until he mentions any particular allowance about which he wishes to have the information, I am afraid it will not be possible for me to do the needful.

SCALES OF PAY OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

*159. **Shri Maru Singh Malik :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the scale of pay (exculding allowances) of :—

- (i) Chaprasis ;
- (ii) Police Constables ;
- (iii) Primary School Teachers ;
- (iv) Patwaris ;
- (v) Junior Clerks ;
- (vi) Head Constables ;
- (vii) Girdawar Qanungos ; and
- (viii) Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police.

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (i) Chaprasis. Rs. 20- $\frac{1}{2}$ -25.
- (ii) Police Constables.
 - Time Scale. Rs. 33-1-36-4/7-40-5/7-45.
 - Selection Grade. Rs. 40-1-50.
- (iii) Primary School Teachers.
 - (a) Teachers in Primary Schools run by Local Bodies (J. V. Trained). Rs. 40-2-60/3-90/4-110.
 - (b) Teachers in Government Schools teaching the primary classes. (S. V. Trained). Rs. 50-3--80/4-100.
 - (c) Teachers in Government or L. B. Basic Primary Schoqls.
 - (1) Matric, Trained in Basic Education at Rs. 50 per mensem in the grade mentioned at (a) above.
 - (2) Non-matric trained in Basic Education in the grade mentioned at (a) above.
 - (3) Middle J. T. trained in Basic Education in the grade mentioned at (a) above with two advance increments.

(4) Matric J. T. trained in Basic Education in the grade mentioned at (a) above with two advance increments subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per month.

(iv) Patwaris. Rs. 30-1-40/1-50.

(v) Junior Clerks.
Secretariat Offices. Rs. 60-4-80/5-120.

Other than Secretariat Offices. Rs. 50-3-80/4-100.

(vi) Head Constables. Rs. 55-3-85.

(vii) Girdawar Qanungos. The hon. Member is presumably referring to "Field Qanungos" whose scale of pay is Rs. 50-3-80/4-100.

(viii) Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police. Rs. 80-2-90/2-100.

Shri Maru Singh Malik : Is a peon's salary sufficient for supporting an average family ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a matter of opinion.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is the Government prepared to increase the basic pays of the eight categories of Government servants referred to in the question ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a request for action.

Shri Rizak Ram : The grades of pay of the police officers show that whereas the rate of increment of a senior officer is less, that of the lower officer is higher. Does the hon. Minister consider it fair ?

Mr. Speaker : Again it is a matter of opinion.

PROHIBITION IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***160. Shri Maru Singh Malik :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state the total loss in revenue to Government on account of the enforcement of prohibition in Rohtak District ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Rs. 8,76,771 excluding enforcement charges which amount to Rs. 2,23,415-5-6.

RESERVE EVACUEE LAND.

*189. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) the total area of land district-wise kept as reserve out of the Muslim evacuee lands and reasons therefor ;

(b) the area out of the reserve land that remained fallow during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) The required information is given below :—

(b) This information is not readily available. Instructions had, however, been issued to all the Deputy Commissioners in the State that all evacuee lands of which possession had not been taken by the allottees should be leased out at six times the land revenue plus cesses.

ANNEXTURE

TO

ASSEMBLY QUESTION No. 189 (STARRED.)

S. No.	Name of the District	Area reserved for Government Departments for development and other schemes for eventual acquisition against payment of fair compensation.	Area reserved for restoration to Muslims.
		In ordinary Acres.	In ordinary Acres
1	Ludhiana	8,984	Nil
2	Karnal	4,115	Nil
3	Jullundur	1,075	Nil
4	Ambala	526	16,179
5	Gurgaon	6,181	50,494
6	Rohtak	706	Nil
7	Hoshiarpur	393	Nil
8	Hissar	3,839	Nil
9	Gurdaspur	117	Nil
10	Ferozepore	2,464	Nil
11	Kangra	132	Nil
12	Amritsar	12	Nil
13	Simla	Nil	Nil
	Total	28,544	66,673

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know the purpose for which this land has been reserved ?

Minister : That information has been given in the statement.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is a portion of the reserved land intended to be allotted to Congress Leaders ?

Minister : It has not been reserved either for the Congress Leaders or for the Communist Leaders.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO REFUGEE RELATIVES.

***248. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is the intention of the Government to allot land to refugees who are blood relations at one and the same place, as far as possible in the State ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Yes. In fact the State Government had invited applications from blood relations who wanted to be consolidated at one place by the 30th November 1949 and as far as possible all such applications were accepted. In the case of those who did not apply by the prescribed date mentioned above, consolidation can only be effected if the area for allotment to the blood relations concerned is available in the village in which consolidation is desired.

Sardar Chanan Singh : What action has the Government taken on the applications received by the Rehabilitation Department complaining that in the matter of allotment of lands brothers and other relatives have been separated from each other ?

Minister : As I have already submitted that some applications were received after the prescribed date, these are being considered by the Government and if land is available the requests made in the applications will be complied with as far as possible.

Sardar Nidhan Singh : Is there any land which can be allotted to the applicants whose applications are being considered by the Government ?

Minister : I cannot say.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Government prepared to do anything for those poor people who did not read the Government notification in the news papers and did not apply in time ?

Mr. Speaker : This is not a question. It is a request for action.

RETIREMENT AGE FOR SUBORDINATE SERVICES.

***249. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the age of retirement for Punjab Government Subordinate Services is 55 years, whereas the retirement age for similar Central Government Services is 60 years; if so, the reasons for the disparity;

(b) the differences, if any, in the Pension Rules for Subordinate Services of the State and Central Government and the reasons for the disparity;

(c) whether it is a fact that the dearness allowance allowed to Central Government employees is at a higher rate than the dearness allowance allowed to the State Government employees ; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps the State Government contemplates to take to bring such disparity to an end ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) Yes, so far as Ministerial Government servants are concerned. In the case of others, the age of compulsory retirement, both at the Centre and the Punjab Government, is 55 years. This disparity was permitted substantially with a view to absorb a large number of displaced Government servants from Punjab (Pakistan), at the time of partition, who were surplus to the sanctioned strength of the cadres in the various Departments of the State Government.
- (b) With the introduction of the revised pension scheme, with effect from 10th June 1951, the State Pension rules are, in all important respects, substantially the same as the Central Government rules, except that our Government servants can, if they so desire, retire on retiring pension, after completion of 25 years service as against 30 years, prescribed by the Government of India.
- (c) Yes. With all the will in the world to help the low-paid Government servants, the State Government cannot, due to their slender financial resources, fall in line with the Government of India in this respect. No other part 'A' State Government is known to have followed, in entirety, the Central Government rates of dearness allowance.
- (d) The hon. Member is referred to the announcement contained in the Budget speech regarding an adhoc increase, with effect

from the 1st August 1952, of Rs. 5 per mensem in the existing rates of dearness allowance, in the case of Government servants drawing pay upto Rs. 100 per mensem.

Sardar Chanan Singh : What action has the Government taken on the representation sent to it by the teachers regarding raising their age of retirement ?

Chief Minister : It has been rejected.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES BY DISTRICT BOARD, FEROZEPORE.

*228. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether the District Board, Ferozepore has not paid the salaries to its employees for the Rabi crop harvest vacations ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : No ; the Board did.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : What about the untrained teachers ? Have they also been paid for this period ? Is it not a fact that after the vacation, their services were dispensed with and new persons who had managed to win the favour of the officers concerned were recruited in their place ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

UNANI AYURVEDIC BOARD.

*134. **Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the date when and the period for which the Unani Ayurvedic Board was constituted ;

(b) the names of its members ;

(c) the functions of the Board ;

(d) the progress it has made during its existence ;

(e) the number of Medicos it has interviewed for registration so far ;

(f) the number of those among them who have been issued registration certificates ;

(g) whether the members of the Board are in receipt of any remuneration or T.A ;

(h) whether any member has refused to draw this remuneration or T.A ; if so, on what account, together with the name of the person concerned ;

(i) the total expenses incurred by the Board including the remuneration paid to the members ?

Minister for Education :

- (a) The Board was constituted on the 14th June 1950, for two years from the date of its first meeting held on the 30th October 1950.
- (b) Shri Hardayal Vaidya, Shri Prakash Nath Tewari, Shri Jagan Nath, Hakim Naranjan Singh, Vaidya Durga Datt, Vaidya Dhani Ram, Pt. Mohan Krishan, Hakim Kartar Singh, Hakim Dharam Singh, Vaidya Gobind Lal Satyarthi and Hakim Harbachan Lal.
- (c) To implement the provisions of the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act, 1949.
- (d) The Board has organized its regular office. Registration of qualified Vaidas and Hakims and those who have ten years' practice at their credit is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly. It has taken steps to recognize colleges and institutions teaching Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of medicine to students.
- (e) 18,000 approximately.
- (f) 3,378
- (g) Yes.
- (h) Yes. Shri Durga Datt, Member of the Board, did not accept his daily fee or T. A. in connection with the scrutiny of applications for registration, as he wanted his private night Ayurvedic Pathshala recognized, which was not accepted by the Board.
- (i) Rs. 43,075-5-6.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is the Government prepared to open a school or college for promoting the study of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

— — —

RURAL DISPENSARIES IN THE STATE.

***158. Shri Maru Singh Malik :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of rural dispensaries, districtwise, started after 1947 in the State ;
- (b) the annual cost of medicines and equipment per dispensary ;
- (c) the pay of the Doctor and other staff of each dispensary per year ;

(d) the total number of rural dispensaries districtwise before partition in this part of the State ;

(e) whether the Government has fixed any target limits of time when free medical aid will be supplied to every man ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) 21 Rural Dispensaries were started in the Punjab (I) after 1947 in the Districts named in statement No. I, below.

(b) Rs. 1,000 per annum.

(c) Rs. 5000 per annum.

(d) The Districtwise number of Rural Dispensaries, which were in existence at the time of partition in this part of the State, is given in Statement No. II.

(e) No.

STATEMENT NO. I.

Hissar.	3
Karnal.	2
Kangra.	8
Hoshiarpur.	1
Ludhiana.	1
Ferozepore.	1
Amritsar.	2
Gurdaspur.	3

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STATEMENT No. II.

Hissar.	27
Rohtak.	11
Gurgaon.	12
Karnal.	18
Ambala.	10
Kangra.	14
Hoshiarpur.	8
Jullundur.	8
Ludhiana.	5
Ferozepore.	22
Amritsar.	16
Gurdaspur.	3

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BORDER INCIDENTS.

***121. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of border incidents during the years 1950—51 and 1951—52 ;

(b) the steps so far taken by the Government as security measures for the prevention of border incidents ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 25 in 1950—51 and 18 in 1951—52.

(b) Government have taken adequate steps, including the posting of police along the border, to prevent border incidents. The hon. Member will, no doubt, appreciate the fact that it is not in the public interest to give out more details.

ISSUE OF LICENCES FOR FIREARMS IN THE STATE.

***122. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government is aware of the persistent demand by the public for liberalising rules for the issue of licences for firearms in the State ;

(b) the steps taken by the Government on the subject ;

(c) whether it is a fact that district authorities are directed not to issue licences beyond a certain percentage ; if so, whether he will lay a copy of such directions on the Table ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) No such demand has been submitted to Government

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The instructions issued by Government are of a confidential nature and it will not be in the public interest to disclose them.

RECOVERY OF GIRLS FROM PAKISTAN.

***137. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any attempt was made by the Punjab Government to compile a list of such non-Muslim girls and women as had been kidnapped and left in Pakistan at the time of partition ; if so, their number ;

(b) the number of girls and women who have been rescued and brought over to this side during the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 ;

(c) whether there is any organisation of the Police Department engaged on this work ; if so, the expenses Government has incurred on this organisation in the years 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 ;

(d) the number of employees engaged in this work together with their salaries ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the workers of our Recovery Organisation are not allowed to enter certain Districts of Punjab (Pakistan) ;

(f) the figures of the recovered women in the age-groups of 12 years, 12-35 years, 35-40 years and above ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) No. This was being dealt with by the Government of India.

(b) During 1947—48.	5,663	} Total ... 8,155
1949	609	
1950	871	
1951	743	
From 1-1-1952 to 30-5-1952	269	

(c) No separate organisation ; but Punjab Police has been lent to the Government of India Recovery Organisation who pay for them.

(d) In view of the reply given to (c), the question does not arise.

(e) Yes ; at present the Governments of India and Pakistan have banned a few districts for workers ; but recoveries in these areas continue and guides are permitted to go in these areas to help recovery.

Below 12 yrs.	12—35 yrs.	35-50 yrs.	50 yrs. and above
(f) —————	—————	—————	—————
41%	46%	7%	6%

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS, ETC. IN THE STATE.

***141. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of complaints received by the District Police Officers districtwise, from the public relating to bribery and corruption against Police Officers and other employees of the Police Department during the years 1950—51 and 1951—52 in the State ;

(b) the number of such complaints enquired into in each District during the aforesaid period ;

(c) the number of such complaints found baseless on enquiry ;

(d) the number of cases in which allegations were proved ;

(e) the action taken by the Government in such cases ;

(f) the number of cases still pending and the reasons for the delay in their final disposal ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) to (f) A statement containing the information asked for is given

[Chief Minister]

below :—

Statement containing reply to Starred Assembly Question No. 141 by Shri Dev Raj Sethi, M. L. A.

District	(a) The number of complaints received by the District Police Officers Districtwise from the Public relating to bribery and corruption against Police Officers and other employees of the Police Department during the years 1950—51 and 1951—52 in the State	(b) The number of such complaints enquired into in each District during the aforesaid period	(c) The number of such complaints found baseless on enquiry	(d) The number of cases in which allegations were proved	(e) The action taken by Government in such cases	(f) The number of cases still pending and the reasons for the delay in their final disposal
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1. Hissar	1950-51 2 12 1951-52 2 12	1950-51 2 12 1951-52 2 12	1950-51 1 6 1951-52 1 6	1950-51 1 5 1951-52 1 5	1950-51 1 Dismissed 1951-52 2 Dismissed 1 Censured 1 Compulsorily retired 1 Reduced 1 Warned 1 Convicted and sentenced to 9 months' R. I.	1950-51 .. Pending final order 1951-52
2. Rohtak.	1950-51 61 21 1951-52 61 21	1950-51 61 21 1951-52 61 21	1950-51 56 19 1951-52 56 19	1950-51 5 2 1951-52 5 2	1950-51 1 Dismissed 2 Warned 1 Forfeiture of Service. 1 Convicted by Lower Court, but acquitted on appeal. 3 Convicted 2 Discharged by trying Courts. 1951-52 2 Dismissed 1 Censured 1 Compulsorily retired 1 Reduced 1 Warned 1 Convicted and sentenced to 9 months' R. I.	1950-51 .. Pending final order 1951-52

	22	19	22	19	16	3	2	1 Censured 2 Forfeiture of Service	1 Reduced in rank 1 Forfeiture of Service	Applicant not pro- ducing evidence
3. Gurgaon	22	19	22	19	16	3	2			
4. Karnal	17	21	17	21	12	3	3	1 Discharged 1 Compulsorily retired 1 Transferred	5 Discharged 1 Retired compulsorily Reverted & 1 Censured	1 No delay
5 Ambala	7	12	7	12	8	..	4	..	1 Dismissed 1 Discharged 2 Censured	1 Pending final orders
6. Simla	...	1	...	1	..	..	1	..	2 Convicted and sentenced to 6 months' R. I. Acquitted on appeal	..
7. Hoshiar- pur	11	4	11	4	...	2	4	1 Dismissed 1 Transferred	2 convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment	2 Pending final orders
8. Jullundur	11	20	11	20	4	1	16	1 Dismissed	1 Dismissed 8 Reverted	4 Pending in Court 3 Pending investi- gation
9. Ludhiana	19	34	19	34	32	...	..	..	..	2 Pending final order
10. Kangra	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	...	..	..

[Chief Minister]

	(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)		(e)		(f)
District	1950-51	1951-52	1950-51	1951-52	1950-51	1951-52	1950-51	1951-52	1950-51	1951-52	1950-51 1951-52
11. Ferozepore	15	23	15	23	15	5	...	7	...	7 Dismissed	.. 11*
12. Amritsar	308	304	308	304	306	295	2	9	2 Forfeiture of service	4 Convicted judicially 7 Confined to quarter guard 3 Censured	..
13. Gurdaspur	20	14	20	11	17	10	3	1	3 Dismissed	1 Dismissed 1 Reverted	... 1 Being completed
14. Govt. Rly. Police, Punjab	9	7	9	7	6	1	3	6	1 Censured 1 Reverted & censured 1 Removed from Promotion List "D"	1 Censured 3 Discharged 2 Forfeiture of service	... ..

(* 4 in Court ; 2 under investigation and 5 Departmental file under preparation)

**ARRESTS UNDER SECTION 109 CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE
IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

***251. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of persons arrested under Section 109 Criminal Procedure Code in District Amritsar during the period from January, 1952, to March 31, 1952, together with the number of such persons at present in Jail ;

(b) the number of such arrested persons amongst them who have been released on bail ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) The total number of persons arrested under Section 109 Criminal Procedure Code in District Amritsar during the period 1st January, 1952 to 31st March, 1952 is 131 and the number of such persons at present in Jail is 4.

(b) The number of such arrested persons released on bail is 127.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is the Government prepared to amend this Section of the Indian Penal Code because the Police misuses it to harass the innocent people ?

Chief Minister : Sir, I hope you will not mind if I do not reply to this question because it is in fact a request for action.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, it is a request for action.

**PRESENTATION OF MEMORANDUM TO DEVELOPMENT MINISTER
AT BHIWANI BY COMRADE RACHHPAL SINGH.**

***252. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the visit of the Development Minister to Bhiwani, District Hissar, on May 7, 1952, a memorandum was presented to him by Comrade Rachhpal Singh, Communist Leader, drawing therein the Minister's attention to cases of Police excesses in the District ;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action on the memorandum ; if so, what ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) No memorandum was presented though he saw the Development Minister.
 - (b) Does not arise.
-

GRANT OF ARMS LICENCES IN PATHANKOT TEHSIL.

***253. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of arms licences granted to various persons in Pathankot Tehsil, District Gurdaspur during the year 1951-52.
- (b) the names of such licencees along with the area of land held by each of them ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a and b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the information asked for. However, any specific case needing Government attention may be brought to its notice.
-

CULTIVATION OF LAND BY TENANTS IN THE STATE.

***161. Shri Maru Singh Malik :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of tenants cultivating land belonging to landlords in the State owning :—

- (i) 5 acres or less,
- (ii) 5 to 10 acres,
- (iii) 10 to 20 acres,
- (iv) 20 to 30 acres,
- (v) 30 to 50 acres,
- (vi) 50 to 75 acres,
- (vii) 75 to 100 acres and
- (viii) more than 100 standard acres ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : It needs a much longer time for collecting this information and it is just possible it may not be ready during this Session.

PEASANTS WELFARE FUND.

***173. Shri Sri Chand :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount of the Peasants Welfare Fund which fell to the share of East Punjab at the time of partition ;
- (b) the manner in which it was spent ;
- (c) whether the fund still exists ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) The balance in the Peasants Welfare Fund was merged in the general balance on the partition, which was to be divided in the ratio 40 : 60 between Punjab (India) and Punjab (Pakistan). The financial adjustment in respect of it has not yet taken place between the two Governments and accordingly no share of the Peasants Welfare Fund as such has been received by Punjab (India).
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

***174. Shri Sri Chand :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount of the Rural Development Fund which fell to the share of the Punjab (India) at the time of the partition ;
- (b) the manner in which that amount was spent ;
- (c) whether the Rural Development Fund still exists ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) No Rural Development Fund existed in the Joint Punjab nor any was started after the partition. There were, however, two Funds "Special Development Fund" and "Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas Fund" which existed before the partition, but these funds were merged in the general balances on the partition.
- (b) In view of (a) above, this question does not arise.
- (c) In view of (a) above, this question does not arise.

COST OF CONSOLIDATION OF LAND.

***234. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the expenditure incurred on 'Jarib Kashas' and on 'Watbandi' work is included in the charges for consolidation of land ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The cost of Jarib Kashas is included in the fee but Watbandi is to be carried out by the right-holders themselves, failing which they have to pay an additional charge of Rs. 2-8-0 per cultivated acre.

METALLED AND UNMETALLED ROADS IN THE STATE.

***54. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the mileage of metalled and unmetalled roads constructed in each district of the State since the partition ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : A list of mileage of metalled roads constructed and improved in each district is given below. No unmetalled road has been constructed :—

	New construction.	Improvement.
1. Gurgaon District	13.00 miles	5.25 miles
2. Rohtak „	16.00 „	6.75 „
3. Karnal „	17.37 „	5.00 „
4. Ambala „	44.96 „	24.25 „
5. Hoshiarpur „	20.16 „	..
6. Ferozepore „	60.27 „	..
7. Amritsar „	51.40 „	..
8. Gurdaspur „	10.19 „	..
9. Kangra „	23.00 „	..
	256.35 miles	41.25 miles

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

***172. Shri Sri Chand :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount of salaries and allowances drawn by members of various Government departments excluding the police ;

(b) the amount of salaries and allowances of Government servants of various departments separately, who have their Headquarters at Simla including the Judges of the High Court, the Ministers and their establishment and the Governor;

(c) the total number of Government servants with Headquarters at Simla along with the names of their home district ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The time and expense involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the advantage to accrue from it.

REFUGEE LAMBARDARS.

***232. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the refugee Lambardars have been allotted half a square of land in the State in respect of Lambardari ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the person appointed as a Lambardar in village Allam Shah, tahsil and police station Fazilka, District Ferozepore has been allotted half a square of land in respect of Lambardari ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

REFUND OF TENDER LEASE MONEY TO LICENSEES FROM WEST PAKISTAN.

***233. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the licensees from West Pakistan, who had taken Government lands on the tender lease system, have been refunded the amount of money deposited by them in respect of the leases in Government treasuries ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Deposits made by temporary lessees of Crown Waste Lands in colonies in West Punjab, before partition, have not so far been refunded. As this liability is to be shared between the two Governments, negotiations are still going on with the Pakistan Government.

HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OPENED IN THE STATE AFTER THE PARTITION.

***55. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of high schools and colleges opened by the Government in different districts of the State since partition ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(i) Government High Schools :—	(a) Simla (Ambala District.)	2
(a) opened after the partition.	(b) Dalhousie (Gurdaspur Distt.)	1
(b) taken over as a result of merger of certain states in the Punjab	(a) Bawal and Pataudi (Gurgaon District)	2
	(b) Bhunga (Hoshiarpur District)	1
	(c) Chachrauli (Ambala District)	1
(ii) Government Colleges	(a) Hissar	1
	(b) Muktsar (Ferozepur District)	1
	(c) Tanda Urmar (Hoshiarpur District)	1
	(d) Jullunder (Training College for Men)	1
	(e) Simla (Ambala District) (Training College for Women)	1

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what is the policy of the Government with regard to the opening of new schools and colleges ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise out of the original question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What considerations weigh with the Government to open new schools and colleges ?

Minister: The new schools and colleges are opened at such places where there is no such institution before.

Shrimati Sita Devi : A new college has been opened at Tanda. I know of many more places where new schools and colleges have been opened in spite of the fact that such institutions already existed there.

Minister : I may inform the hon. Lady Member that there was no college before at Tanda.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reasons for opening new schools and colleges where such institutions already existed ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I know that there was no college at Tanda but in view of the fact that there are so many colleges at Jullundur there was no urgent need for opening a college at Tanda Urmar.

Minister : I may inform the hon. Lady Member that there were about 1600 students in the schools who stood in need of higher education.

DISPENSARIES OPENED IN THE STATE AFTER THE PARTITION.

***56. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of new dispensaries opened by the Government in each district of the State since partition ?

Shri Jagat Narain : 75 new hospitals and dispensaries have been opened in the Punjab State since the partition. The number and category of such hospitals and dispensaries, districtwise, is given below :—

Statement showing the number of hospitals and dispensaries opened in the Punjab after partition.

S. No.	Name of District	State Public	State Canal	Special Police	Local and Municipal Fund Rural	Subsidized	Total
1	Hissar ..	2	3	..	3	2	10
2	Rohtak ..	4	..	..	..	..	4
3	Gurgaon ...	4	..	..	..	..	4
4	Karnal ...	2	..	..	2	1	5
5	Ambala ...	1	7	..	..	..	8
6	Simla ..	2	..	..	..	..	2
7	Kangra ..	1	..	..	8	7	16
8	Hoshiarpur ..	1	3	..	1	2	7
9	Jullundur ..	3	..	1	..	..	4
10	Ludhiana ...	2	..	..	1	..	3
11	Ferozepore ..	..	2	..	1	1	4
12	Amritsar ..	1	..	..	1	2	4
13	Gurdaspur ..	..	..	..	2	2	4
	Grand Total ..	23	15	1	19	17	75

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reasons for not opening new dispensaries in the backward districts of Gurdaspur and Gurgaon when such dispensaries have been opened in other districts such as Rohtak, Karnal, Simla, Jullundur and Ludhiana ?

Rai Raghuvir Singh : May I know whether District Board Dispensaries have been provincialised ?

Minister : I require notice.

AYURVEDIC AND UNANI COLLEGES IN THE STATE.

***135. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Ayurvedic and Unani Colleges at present in the State ;

(b) whether they are getting any aid from the Government ; if so, the amount thereof ;

(c) whether the Government intend to give any aid to those colleges ; if so, the procedure and criterion for granting ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Ayurvedic Colleges	2	} Recognised by Government.
Unani Colleges.	none	

A complete list of un-recognised colleges is not available.

(b) None.

(c) Not at present.

KULU VALLEY TRANSPORT COMPANY, PATHANKOT.

***136. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of route permits granted to the Kulu Valley Transport Co. Ltd., Pathankot for buses, light trucks and heavy trucks along with the description of routes ;

(b) the number of vehicles, light trucks, heavy trucks and buses that this company is maintaining and running against these permits ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the transport companies are required to maintain 25% extra buses for the routes granted to them ;

(d) whether the company mentioned in para (a) above is maintaining this extra number of vehicles ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) The following permits have been granted to Kulu Valley Transport

Co. Ltd., Pathankot :—

(i) Buses :—

1. Nagrota-Manali	...	12 permits
2. Pathankot-Kulu	...	3 permits
3. Pathankot-Joginder Nagar	...	2 permits
Total	...	<u>17 permits</u>

(ii) Light Trucks :—

1. Pathankot-Kulu-Manali	...	3 permits
2. Pathankot-Nagrota-Manali	...	8 permits
3. Pathankot-Baijnath-Manali	...	5 permits
Total	...	<u>16 permits</u>

(iii) Heavy Trucks :—

1. Wahgha-Nagrota-Palampur	...	10 permits
----------------------------	-----	------------

(b) The company is maintaining and running 17 buses, 16 light trucks and 10 heavy trucks against the permits granted to the company.

(c) No. The fleet of vehicles of each transport company including 25% reserve for contract and breakdown purposes is fixed by the Regional Transport Authority. The total number of the vehicles required to run the daily services plus 25% reserve is normally termed as the adequate fleet of the company.

(d) The fleet of the Kulu Valley Transport Co. Ltd., Pathankot, is of 17 vehicles which includes 25% for contract and break-down purposes.

GRANT-IN-AID TO DISPLACED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE.

***181. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government as grant-in-aid to all the displaced educational institutions in the State during the year 1951-52 ;

(b) the amounts which were allotted to the Girls' Schools and Colleges and to the Boys' Schools and Colleges respectively ;

(c) whether it is a fact that no amount was given to Montgomery Guru Nanak Girls High School, Jullundur City by way of grant-in-aid in the year 1951-52 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

(d) whether the case of the above school was recommended for Government aid by the Inspectress of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab ; if so, the reasons for ignoring the same ?

(e) whether there are any rules for regulating the giving of grants-in-aid to schools; if so, a copy thereof may be laid on the Table ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) The State Government did not sanction any specific grant-in-aid to displaced educational institutions as such during the year 1951-52. The Government of India, however, placed at the disposal of the State Government in the Department of Rehabilitation a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for distribution among disrupted institutions reassembled in Punjab (I) as against Rs. 10,00,000 received during the year 1950-51. The Government of India further gave during the year 1951-52 a grant of Rs. 3,00,000 to the Punjab University.
- (b) The rehabilitation grant received from the Government of India was, under the instructions of the Government of India, distributed by the Rehabilitation Department among high schools and colleges and educational institutions engaged in research. No girls high school or college disrupted from the West Punjab had re-established itself in Punjab (I) up to the year 1951-52, and the entire sum received from the Government of India was distributed among disrupted high schools and colleges for boys.
- (c) No rehabilitation grant was given to the Montgomery Guru Nanak High School, Jullundur City as no such school existed during the year for which the grants were distributed. There was, however, a vernacular middle school with optional English classes under the name functioning in Jullundur City. Schools of this status were not considered for rehabilitation grant by the Rehabilitation Department under instructions of the Government of India.
- (d) The case of the vernacular middle school under that name was recommended by the Inspectress of Schools for rehabilitation grant, but the Rehabilitation Department did not accept the recommendation. It may, however, be added that the Montgomery Guru Nanak Girls Middle School, Jullundur City was given a

rehabilitation grant of Rs. 19,960 in the year 1950-51. Rehabilitation grants are, as a rule, not repeated.

- (e) The answer is in the affirmative. The rules are contained in Chapter III of the Punjab Education Code to which the hon. questioner may refer.

GOVERNMENT BUS SERVICES IN THE STATE.

254. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount of capital invested in the Omnibus Service on Jullundur-Amritsar route along with the date when the service was originally started ;

(b) the number of buses operating on this route at present ;

(c) the number of daily services running on this route at present ;

(d) the number of drivers, conductors, inspectors, managers and other staff employed on this Service together with their scales of pay ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the fares charged by the nationalised transport service on this route are higher than the fares formerly charged by the private transport companies ; if so, by how much and the reasons for this increase ;

(f) whether any sheds have been constructed for the convenience of passengers at halting stations between Jullundur and Amritsar ; if so, the number of such halting stations ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(g) whether the Government has received any complaints that the buses operating on this route frequently carry more passengers than they are authorised to carry by the terms of their licences ;

(h) the amount accruing to the Government as net profit from the Service on the said route in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 ;

(i) whether these figures of net profit are exclusive of depreciation charges ; and

(j) the rate at which the depreciation is reckoned ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) The total capital invested in Omnibus Services on Jullundur-Amritsar route amounts to Rs. 8,57,713. The Services on this route were started by Jullundur and Amritsar Omnibus Service on 23rd August 1950.

[Minister for Education]

(b) 46 Buses.

(c) 68 daily return trips on an average.

(d) Staff employed on this route together with their scales of pay is as under :—

	Scale.
1. 69 drivers	80-4-120
2. 69 conductors	50-3-80-4-100
3. 9 Inspectors	80-5-110/5-150

The workshop, clerical and other supervisory staff are working for the entire Jullundur and Amritsar Omnibus Services and their distribution on Jullundur-Amritsar route and other routes cannot be made.

(e) No. The Nationalised Transport Services charged the same fare of Rs. 1-6-0, as was being charged by the private transport companies at the time of taking over of this route by Government. In 1951, when the minimum fare for all routes in the State was fixed by Government, an increase of annas three was brought about. The fare charged is on the basis of six pies per mile, which is a minimum fare and applicable to all Services whether privately owned or Government owned.

(f) One Outstation Bus Shelter is under construction near Octroi Barrier, Jullundur City on Jullundur-Amritsar route. This is an experimental construction and if on completion, shelter is found to be suitable to meet the public requirements fully, construction of other shelters, for which funds have already been provided would be taken in hand for Kartarpur, Beas, Rayya and Jandiala, with alterations, if found necessary.

(g) No. However, on occasion of Baisakhi fair, a few complaints were received of over-loading when traffic was out of control and even the police force could not help.

(h) Net profits accrued to Government on Jullundur-Amritsar route are given here under :—

(i) 1950-51.	Rs. 1,14,400
(ii) 1951-52.	Rs. 2,19,832

(i) Yes.

(j) The Depreciation is reckoned at the following rate :—

(1) Buses	...	25%
(2) Tools & Plants	...	10%
(3) Furniture Fitting and Electric Installation	...	8%
(4) Suspense and Miscellaneous.		10%
(5) Lands and Buildings	..	5%

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is it a fact that a letter was written by the Manager, Jullundur Omnibus Service, to the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police to the effect that the Government Omni buses might not be challaned even if they were over-crowded and carried passengers up to a number of 64 and even if they were without electric horns ?

—————

**FORCIBLE EJECTION OF TENANTS IN VILLAGE BAROTE,
POLICE STATION INDORA.**

***138 Shri Ram Chandra, Comrade :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Superintendent of Police, Dharamsala received a representation from tenants in village Barote, Police Station Indora to the effect that certain landlords were forcibly ejecting tenants in that area without serving any legal notices ; and the action if any taken by the Government to give protection to the tenants ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that previously landlords in this area placed obstructions in the way of tenants who desired to hold their meeting and the police of Indora Police Station had to be posted at the place of the meeting to enable the tenants to hold their meeting without breach of peace ;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the landlords concerned who threatened breach of the peace ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) No ; does not arise.

(b) No obstruction was placed by landlords in the way of tenants wanting to hold meetings. However precautionary Police Guard was once detailed at a meeting of the tenants.

(c) Since the landlords did not threaten breach of peace no action against them was called for.

—————

FILLING OF POSTS THROUGH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

***142 Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has decided that all posts, temporary or permanent, carrying a salary of Rs. 50 p.m. or above will be filled in future on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission ; if so, the manner and detailed procedure to be adopted by the Government in this behalf ;

(b) whether the cases of incumbents of temporary posts in receipt of a salary of Rs. 50 or above, who are already in Government service, will also be sent to the Public Service Commission ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise at present.

DETENUS IN THE STATE.

***143. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of political and non-political detenues in the State on 1st June 1952 ;

(b) the last date on which their cases were reviewed and the action taken thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Ten.

(b) Last date on which reviewed by Advisory Board	No. of cases reviewed	Action taken by Government
31-3-1952	1	Recommendation made by the Advisory Board for the continued detention, was accepted by Government.
1-4-1952	1	
21-5-1952	8	

**REGISTRATION OF PUNJABIS AS MEMBERS OF
CRIMINAL TRIBES.**

***235. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of Punjabis registered as members of criminal tribes, and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for removing them from the Register of Criminal Tribes ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : There are, at present, 1295 registered members of Criminal Tribes in the Punjab State. The cases of the members of the Criminal Tribes are periodically examined by the district officers and those who have no conviction or suspicion against them for a serious offence within the three preceding years, are exempted. There will not be any Criminal Tribes in the State on the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act on the 31st August 1952.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE AND HEAD CONSTABLES
ETC. POSTED AT MAKHI KALAN AND VILLAGE SUR SINGH,
DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

79. Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police, Head Constables and Constables respectively who remained posted to Additional Police Post, Makhi Kalan and village Sur Singh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar during the year 1949 attached to each of these Police Posts ;

(b) the total period for which each of them remained posted to each of the police posts and the total amount received by each of them as salary, dearness allowance, house and conveyance allowances during his stay in the said police post ;

(c) (i) the total amount spent by Government for contingencies, initial charges, house rent, clothing allowance, for the purchase of the furniture, travelling allowances etc. on each of the police posts in these villages ;

(ii) the amount charged as pensionary charges in each case ;

(iii) the amount charged as the expenses of the police force which was kept at the District Head-quarters as reserve out of the sanctioned force for each post ;

[Shrimati Parkash Kaur]

(d) whether during the stay of the police force the reserve force referred to in part (c) (iii) above was ever sent to any of these villages ; if so, how many times and for what periods in each case ;

(e) whether at the time of calculating the cost of the police force chargeable from the villagers the expenditure incurred by the Government on this reserve force was also included : if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) & (b) Two statements (marked A & B) are given below.

		Rs.	a.	p.
(c)	(i) Makhi Kalan	...	1,264	7 0
	Sur Singh	...	1,510	0 0
	(ii) Makhi Kalan	...	323	6 5
	Sur Singh	...	622	4 9
	(iii) Makhi Kalan	...	780	0 0
	Sur Singh	...	696	0 0

(d) No.

(e) Yes, in accordance with the provisions of rule 2-22 (1) of the Punjab Police Rules.

STATEMENT 'A'

Statement showing names of A. S. Is., H Cs. & F.Cs. who remained posted to Additional (Punitive) Police Post Makhi Kalan during 1949, with total period of their posting and amount received by them as salary, dearness allowance etc.

Name with rank	Total period for which remained posted	Total amount received as salary, dearness allowance, house and conveyance allowances.
		Rs. a. p.
Officiating A. S. I. Chuni Lal	... 1-12-1949 to 14-4-1950.	531 8 0
F. C. Jagjit Singh	... 1-12-1949 to 18-1-1950.	81 11 0
F. C. Harbans Lal	... 1-12-1949 to 6-9-1950.	542 13 0
F. C. Partool Chand	... 4-12-1949 to 13-9-1950.	550 13 0
F. C. Sarain Singh	... 1-12-1949 to 17-8-1950.	504 5 0

STATEMENT 'B'

Statement showing names of A. S. Is., H. Cs. and F. Cs. who remained posted to Additional Police Post Sur Singh during 1949, with total period of their posting and total amount received by them as salary, dearness allowance etc.

Name with rank	Total period for which remained posted.	Total amount received as salary dearness allowance, house and conveyance allowances.
		Rs. a. p.
A. S. I. Maya Ram ...	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	1,776 0 0
H. C. Brij Lal ...	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	1,140 0 0
F. C. Mohinder Singh ...	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	732 0 0
F. C. Manohar Lal ...	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	716 0 0
F. C. Mehtab Singh ...	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	716 0 0
F. C. Mohan Singh ..	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	716 0 0
F. C. Jagdish Singh ...	1-11-1949 to 31-10-1950.	716 0 0
F. C. Nazar Singh ..	1-11-1949 to 1-2-1950.	185 3 0
F. C. Gurbax Singh ..	1-11-1949 to 24-5-1950.	395 11 0
F. C. Rattan Singh ..	1-11-1949 to 26-8-1950.	655 4 0

**ADDITIONAL POLICE POST QUARTERED AT VILLAGE KACHA
PAKKA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

80. Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any Additional Police Post was quartered at village Kacha Pakka, Tehsil Patti during the year 1950 ; if so, its sanctioned strength ;

(b) whether during the stay of the Police Post at any time more than the sanctioned strength was sent to this Police Post ; if so, when and for what period ; the reasons for sending the police force in excess of the sanctioned strength ;

(c) the monthly cost of this Police Post for the 1st year showing salaries, dearness allowance, conveyance allowance, house rent, contingency expenditure, initial charges, pensionary charges, purchasing of furniture ;

[Shrimati Parkash Kaur]

(d) (i) the actual total cost incurred by the Government for the maintenance of this Police Post for the whole of the year ;

(ii) the total amount chargeable to the inhabitants of the village as the cost of this Police Post ;

(iii) the amount assessed as cost for the 1st and 2nd time during the year 1952 ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Yes; its strength was one S. I., one H.C. and twelve F.Cs., including contingency reserve from 11th May, 1950 to 17th April, 1951 and one A. S. I. and six F. Cs., including contingency reserve, from 18th April, 1951 to 10th May, 1951.

(b) Yes, from 11th May, 1950 to 24th December, 1950. The extra police was sent there for the period from 15th July 1950 to 24th December, 1950 for the purposes of patrolling and investigation required after the registration of 2 cases under Sections 457 and 392 I. P. C. It is not possible to state the reasons for which such a police force was sent there from 11th May, 1950 to 14th July, 1950 as the relevant record has since been destroyed.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) (i) Rs. 15,547-7-0.

(ii) Rs. 15,547-7-0.

(iii) No assessment was made during the year 1952.

Statement showing month-wise cost of Additional Police Post Kacha Pakka, District Amritsar for the first year i.e. from 11th May, 1950 to 10th May, 1951.

Month	Pay		Dearness Allowance		Temporary Allowance		Conveyance Allowance		House Rent Allowance		Contingency Expenditure		Initial Charges		Pensionary Charges		Purchasing of Furniture		Total	
	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
May 1950	..	439 13 0	254 1 0	6 12 0	45 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	746 6 0	..
June 1950	..	649 0 0	375 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,101 8 0	..
July 1950	...	627 0 0	375 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,079 8 0	..
August 1950	..	633 0 0	375 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,085 8 0	..
September 1950.	..	622 0 0	375 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,074 8 0	..
October 1950	..	625 0 0	375 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,077 8 0	..
November 1950..	..	639 0 0	375 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	260 0 0	1,145 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,496 8 0	..
December 1950	635 0 0	585 11 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	227 7 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,525 10 0	..
January 1951	..	625 0 0	404 6 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	20 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,126 14 0	..
February 1951	...	617 0 0	404 6 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	63 6 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,162 4 0	..
March 1951	..	626 0 0	400 0 0	10 0 0	67 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	34 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,137 8 0	..
April 1951	..	486 7 0	317 11 0	5 11 0	54 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	34 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	898 5 0	..
May 1951	...	98 7 0	67 11 0	..	12 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	10 4 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188 8 0	..
																			847 0 0	..
																			Total	15,547 7 0

PLAN FOR LIQUIDATION OF DEBTS IN THE STATE.

81. Shri Chandi Ram Verma : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount of debit directly or indirectly secured by the agricultural land in the State ;

(b) whether the Government has in view any plan for the liquidation of these debts ; if so, the details thereof ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) The information is not available.

(b) First part Does not arise.

Second part... Does not arise.

STRENGTH OF THE POLICE FORCE IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT.

82. Shri Chandi Ram Verma : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total strength of the police force in the Ferozepore District at present and the strength of the force in the pre-partition Punjab stating separately the number of higher grade officers, subordinate staff and the constabulary ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A statement is given below :—

Rank	No. of posts sanctioned before partition.	No. of posts sanctioned at present
Superintendent of Police ..	3	3
Deputy Superintendent of Police ..	4	4
Inspector of Police ..	9	11
Sub-Inspector of Police ..	58	58
Asstt. Sub-Inspector of Police ..	88	84
Head Constable ..	176	179
Constable ..	1379	1284

SCARCITY OF WATER IN ABOHAR SUB-TEHSIL.

83. Shri Chandi Ram Verma : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that there has been scarcity of good water both for human beings and animals during the months of April and May, 1952 in the Abohar Sub-Tehsil on account of long closure of canals ; if so, the steps Government proposes to take in the matter ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Abohar Branch remained closed for ten days during April 1952 on account of rotational closure of Branches of Sirhind Canal. The second closure from the 25th April, 1952 to the 4th May, 1952 became necessary on account of the annual closure of Sirhind Canal for effecting urgent repairs to Head Works and Main Line which had to be postponed from its normal period during January to save the Rabi Crops from damage due to failure of winter rains. Annual closures for repairs are ordinarily enforced during January unless abnormal factors intervene.

SIRHIND CANAL.

84. Shri Chandi Ram Verma : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Sirhind Canal in Abohar Division has remained closed abnormally this year and the water came only in the beginning of May, 1952 and as a consequence the Zamindars suffered to a great extent :

(b) the reason for this long and abnormal closure ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) Abohar Branch did not remain closed abnormally during 1951—52.

There was annual closure for 10 days from the 25th April, 1952 to the 4th May, 1952 for immediate and essential works. Closure could not be observed in winter due to complete failure of winter rains. Zamindars did Kharif watering very comfortably upto the 28th April. ten days' closure could not have caused much loss.

(b) The closure was neither long nor abnormal.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JAILS REFORMS COMMITTEE IN THE STATE.

85. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the decisions, if any, taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Jails Reforms Committee ;

(b) whether these decisions have been implemented ; if so, to what extent ; if not, why not ;

(c) whether all the recommendations of the Jails Reforms Committee have been accepted ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply already given to starred question No. 403*.

PRISONERS AID SOCIETIES IN THE STATE

86. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Prisoners' Aid Societies at present in the State ;

(b) whether they get any financial assistance from the Government ; if so, on what basis ;

(c) the amount given as aid to the Prisoners Aid Societies in the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 ;

(d) the number of prisoners who got aid, relief or otherwise any help from such Prisoners' Aid Societies in the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 12.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The required information is given in the statement below.

S. No.	Name of Jail	No of prisoners who got aid, relief or otherwise any help from Prisoners' Aid Societies		
		1949-50	1950-51	1951-52
1	Central Jail, Ambala ..	40	9	6
2	Central Jail, Ferozepore ..	...	...	...
3	District Jail, Ludhiana ..	9	43	17
4	District Jail, Jullundur ..	12	125	195
5	District Jail, Amritsar ..	...	81	260
6	District Jail, Gurdaspur ..	2	1	4
7	Jails at Hissar ..	..	..	..
8	District Jail, Rohtak ..	..	..	..
9	Sub-Jail, Hoshiarpur ..	..	..	..
10	Sub-Jail, Gurgaon ..	..	..	..
11	Sub-Jail, Karnal ..	..	..	..
12	Jails at Dharamsala and Yol ..	..	..	..

*Reply appears in the proceedings of 14th July 1952.

Note 1.—Although no individual prisoners confined in Central Jail, Ferozepore, got separate Aid from the Society aid in the following form was given to the prisoners as a whole :—

Year 1949—50.	Books worth Rs. 100.
Year 1950—51.	Radio set, eye balls and spectacles costing Rs. 119-14-0.
Year 1951—52.	Books, spectacles, medicines and copies of judgement at a cost of Rs. 215-6-0.

Besides this, an old radio set was got repaired and an amplifier was provided at a cost of Rs. 1,091-8-0. A temporary building situated on the premises of the Jail in front of the administration block was converted into an interview shed at a cost of Rs. 310-7-6. Spittons of Enamel were also supplied at a cost of Rs. 76-7-6. A teacher was maintained for the jail at an annual cost of Rs. 300 which was born by the Prisoners' Aid Society.

Note 2.—In the case of Amritsar Jail, daily newspapers, sets of cloth repairing and shoe-making implements, stationery, indoor games, library books, radio set with loud speaker, etc., were supplied for the use of prisoners by the Society.

Note 3.—In the case of Gurdaspur Jail, Halwa at a cost of Rs. 66-6-6 was also distributed to prisoners on the Republic Day.

Note 4.—In the case of District Jail, Rohtak although no particular prisoners got aid from the Society, books valuing Rs. 50 in 1949—50, books and flowerpots valuing Rs. 100 in 1950—51 and books valuing Rs. 100 in 1951—52 were supplied by the local society for the use of prisoners.

Note 5.—In the case of Dharamsala Sub-Jail, the Society supplied different articles at a cost of Rs. 12-12-6 to the prisoners during the year 1951—52.

TRAINING OF JAIL OFFICERS AND WARDENS ETC. IN THE STATE

87. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement for the training of Jail Officers and Wardens and other staff in the State ; if so, the location of the training school and the number of persons who were given training therein during the last two years ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sacher :

First Part : No.

Second Part : Does not arise.

It may, however, be added for the information of the hon. Member that newly recruited Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents are placed under training with senior officers of the department before being required to perform their respective duties independently. Wardens and other staff receive on-the-job training. During the last two

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years two Superintendents and two Deputy Superintendents have received or are receiving training. Seven Jail Officers (one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent and five Assistant Superintendents) have recently completed six months' training by a United Nations Expert in Criminology and Correctional Administration at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Bombay.

YOL CAMP JAIL.

88. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the monthly rent paid by the Government for the Yol Camp Jail ;
- (b) the number of prisoners in that Jail in the years 1950—51 and 1951—52 together with the amount spent on the prisoners and the staff including the travelling expenses of these prisoners and the staff during this period ;
- (c) whether any art or craft is taught to the prisoners in this Jail ; if so, what ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Monthly rent paid by Government for the

Yol Camp Jail .. Rs. 3,263

(b) Daily average population of prisoners } 290 including
in that Jail during 1950—51 } 53 Detenus.

Daily average population of prisoners } 353 including
in that Jail during 1951—52 } 34 Detenus.

Amount spent on prisoners and detenus

and the staff including transportation charges and travelling expenses of prisoners, detenus and of the staff during 1950—51.

.. Rs. 3,41,459

Amount spent on prisoners and detenus

and the staff including transportation charges and travelling expenses of prisoners, detenus and of the staff during 1951—52

... Rs. 3,15,060-0-0

(c) The following arts and crafts are taught to the prisoners confined in the Camp Jail, Yol.

- (1) Manufacture of Cotton tape.
- (2) Manufacture of Nathi thread.
- (3) Manufacture of Durries.
- (4) Carpentry.

- (5) Manufacture of Munj Ban.
- (6) Manufacture of Munj Mats.
- (7) Manufacture of File Laces.
- (8) Manufacture of Tags.
- (9) Caning of chairs.
- (10) Tailoring.

LAND CULTIVATED BY NON-OCCUPANCY TENANTS IN SIRSA TEHSIL.

89. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the area of land cultivated by the non-occupancy tenants in the following villages of Sirsa Tehsil, in the years 1945—46 and 1946—47 ;

(i) Kehar Wala, (ii) Sadewala, (iii) Dhudianwali, (iv) Mattuwala, (v) Patli Dabar, (vi) Gauriwala and (vii) Ram Nalaria ; together with the number of such tenants village-wise ;

(b) whether there are any dispossessed tenants of village Patli Dabar and Dhudianwali who are shown as Serris in cultivation ;

(c) the number of new tenants, who are not refugees, among the tenants cultivating in 1950—51 and 1951—52 ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) The following table furnishes the required information :—

Sr. No.	Name of Village.	1945—46		1946—47	
		Area Cultivated.	No. of tenants.	Area Cultivated.	No. of tenants.
		Acres.		Acres.	
1	Keharwala ...	2448	132	2615	129
2	Sadewala ...	2851	203	2851	197
3	Dhudianwali ...	3105	92	3100	99
4	Matuwala ...	1784	52	1777	55
5	Patli Dabar ...	1704	52	964	49
6	Ram Nagar ...	590	42	428	50
7	Gauriwala ...	1682	55	1605	46

[Minister for Development]

(b) No.

(c) Number of tenants in—

	1950—51.	1951—1952.
Sadewala	...	8
Gauriwala	...	6

LAND CULTIVATION BY TENANTS IN FAZILKA TEHSIL.

90. **Shri Devi Lal :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of tenants who cultivated land in the following villages of Fazilka Tehsil together with the area cultivated village-wise in the following villages in the years 1946—47, 1947—48, 1950—51 and 1951—52 :—

(i) Kalaran, (ii) Waryam Khara, (iii) Dhingawali (iv) Gobind Garh and (v) Sappanwali ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement containing the required information is given below.

S. No.	Name of villages	1946—47		1947—48		1950—51		1951—52	
		No. of tenants	Area Cultivated in acres	No. of tenants	Area Cultivated in acres	No. of tenants	Area Cultivated in acres	No. of tenants	Area Cultivated in acres
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Gobindgrah ...	50	871	43	784	31	589	15	313
2	Kalaran ...	40	770	36	743	30	711	31	719
3	Waryam Khara	48	830	45	790	43	824	46	818
4	Dhinganwali	44	862	43	841	38	769	39	785
5	Sappanwali ...	49	887	47	851	37	789	36	795

NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN OF MARKET COMMITTEES IN DISTRICT HISSAR.

91. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Market Committees in the Hissar District which have non-official chairmen ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars who are members of the Market Committees with non-official Chairmen, seldom attend the meetings of such Committees ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative the reasons for nominating such officers as members of such Committees ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) Seven.

(b) No such case has come to the notice of Government. The Deputy Commissioner is, however, issuing instructions to these officials for punctual attendance at such meetings.

(c) Does not arise.

RESERVATION OF LAND IN SIRSA TEHSIL.

92. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of landlords in Sirsa Tahsil, who got land reserved under the Punjab Tenants of Security Ordinance, 1950 and Punjab Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, 1950 together with the area of land so reserved ;

(b) the area out of this land that was already self cultivated by these landlords ;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the landlords did not include the self cultivated land in such reservation ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) No. of landlords	Area of land reserved
207	20249 acres.

(b) 220 acres.

(c) Yes.

STARTING OF GOVERNMENT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL AT SIRSA.

93. **Shri Devi Lal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any representations regarding the starting of a Girls High School at Sirsa, have been received by the Government ;

(b) the action, if any, Government proposes to take on such representations ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government is considering the question of raising the Government Girls' Middle School, Sirsa to the high standard. The main difficulty is building. The Municipal Committee, Sirsa has expressed its inability to give additional accommodation and high classes can only be added when provision has been made for the needed accommodation. Steps are being taken to have this need fulfilled.

SELF CULTIVATION OF LAND BY LANDLORDS IN SIRSA TEHSIL.

94. **Shri Devi Lal :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) how much land was self cultivated by landlords of village Patli Dabar, Keharwala and Sadewala or was in possession of these landlords for purposes of self cultivation before October, 1950, i.e., immediately before the commencement of Act No. XXII of 1950 ;

(b) does the area reserved by these landlords of village Patli Dabar also include the area in their self cultivation ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of this, notices of ejectments were got issued by the landlords in respect of the area reserved by them, though under the law they were bound to include the reservation of the land in their self cultivation ;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, does the Government propose restoring this land to the tenants, who were wrongfully ejected and issue instructions in this behalf ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) (1) Patli Dabar	... 196 acres.
Keharwala	... Nil
Sadewala	... Nil

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Action would be taken as soon as applications are received from the persons concerned.

EJECTMENT WARRANTS IN TEHSIL SIRSA.

95. Shri Devi Lal : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that on or about 14th June 1951 about 70 ejectment warrants were issued regarding the land situated in villages Keharwala and Sadewala of Sirsa Tehsil by Assistant Collector, I Grade, Sirsa ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a report was received that these ejectments were effected on 15th June 1951 ;

(c) the date when these reports were received by the Assistant Collector 1st grade, Sirsa in his office ;

(d) whether the Government feels that the delay in submitting these reports point out that the reports were made at a later date and were anti dated ; if not, the cause of this delay ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) 6th July, 1951.
- (d) No. The time involved was not more than the normal time as the warrants were received through the usual departmental channels.

RULING RE. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS AND ALLOCATION OF TIME.

Mr. Speaker : Six hon. Members have given notice of an adjournment motion. I have already made it clear to all the hon. Members that according to the practice of this House no adjournment motions are allowed when the Budget Session is on. For this reason, permission to move this motion for the adjournment of the business of the House is not given.

Now, I would like the hon. Ministers to tell me how much time is required by them to reply to the debate on the demand under consideration.

Minister For Education : I would take only 45 minutes.

Mr. Speaker : Now it is 3 p. m. Today's discussion shall be closed at 5-30 p. m. Out of the time at our disposal, the hon. Minister for Education will have 45 minutes. Now, the same demand shall be discussed which was being discussed on Friday. The following supplementary cut motions, of which the hon. Members have given notices will be treated to have been moved :—

Sardar Gurbanta Singh :

That the item of Rs. 25,10,670 on account of A-University be reduced by Rs. 100.

Shri Gopi Chand :

That the item of Rs. 98,42,210 on account of C-Primary be reduced by Rs. 100.

Shri Teg Ram :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Shri Mool Chand Jain :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

EDUCATION.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (Hindi) : Sir, I am happy to note, that the Minister-in-Charge of the Education Department is a gentleman who is fully aware of the shortcomings and financial difficulties of the Government.

Undoubtedly, Sir, the narrow outlook of our neighbouring country has had some repercussions on our State, yet despite numerous provocations the Government of our State and country and our people have continued to stick to the ideology of secularism. The secular character of our State is evident from the fact that I (a Muslim) am here as an elected member. However, I regret to point out that in spite of this broad out-look of the people of our State, Urdu has been discontinued as the medium of instruction in schools. If the number of Urdu-knowing persons in our State is counted it will be found to be much higher than the number of Hindi and Punjabi knowing people. And that is the reason why almost all the leading newspapers of our State are being published in the Persian script. The Education Minister's own newspaper is being published in that language. I am pained to find that despite all these factsefforts are being made for the extinction of the Urdu language and the Persian script. At least some regard should be had for the facts that it is a language widely understood and used by the masses. It is a language neither of the Hindus nor of the Muslims. If not promoted and encouraged, it should at least have been allowed to exist like the English language. It is in no way inferior to English. It does not look well on the part of our Government to ignore it altogether.

Then, Sir, it is necessary for us to give our full attention to the question of prescription of suitable text-books for the education of our children. If we wish that our nation should progress, we should also carefully inquire into the soundness and efficaciousness of our system of education.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is the lot of the teachers who are rightly considered as the most precious gems of a nation having in them the power to make or mar the character of our younger generation. It is a matter for regret that they are being paid very meagre salaries. How can we expect them to work well, when they are not being paid even so much as may enable them to make their both ends meet. Sir, if we examine their scales of pay, we shall have to admit that none of our teachers can even keep his body and soul together with his pay. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Education to improve the grades of the teachers who are the real nation-builders.

Then, I request the Government to pay more attention to comparatively more important things. It should spare more funds for the education of the people. It is more important than the erection of palatial buildings on which it proposes to spend large sums of money.

Next, I suggest to the hon. Ministers to keep two things in their minds while preparing their Budget. They should avoid raising funds by taxing the poor classes and should endeavour to extend maximum facilities to them. I regret to point out that both these things have not been borne in mind while preparing this Budget. For instance, from a village in Gurgaon District, the Government derives an annual income of Rs. 4,000 from a liquor shop, but there is not even a single primary school in it.

The Government should pay more attention towards primary education the importance of which cannot be over-emphasised.

Another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of this House is the strange way in which certain Government Departments are functioning. For instance, the Chairman District Board Gurgaon, has applied for permission to open a school. The building of the school has been completed but up to now, the necessary permission has not been granted. There is no certainty as to whether the Government will accord it or not. It is very painful to note that the ruralites are not even accorded permission to open a school, even though they may be prepared to meet the initial expenses themselves.

As regards the nationalization of text books, one of my hon. Friends has already pointed out that the books which have so far been nationalized

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have not been made available in the market this time. The Government should arrange to supply these immediately.

If it intends to nationalize more books, it should first take steps to ensure that they become available in the market in time.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Punjabi) : Sir, our educational policy continues to follow the same old lines which the British marked out for us. The main object of the British in following such an anti-national educational policy was to get recruits for the services. So, our national languages like Hindi and Punjabi were discouraged with the result that their growth was arrested and our culture could not flourish. It is a matter of deep regret that even now no change has been brought about in this old and rotten policy and in our schools and colleges the same old anti-national stories are retold in a language which is foreign and difficult for our children to pick up. The medium of instruction in our schools and colleges continues to be English and Hindi and Punjabi teachers do not enjoy the same prestige and status which their colleagues teaching English enjoy. This is mainly due to the fact that their salaries are lower than those of the English teachers. It is a patent fact that at present our national languages are not being accorded the treatment which is their due. Even Professors are being imported from America, as if no capable persons are available here. In fact, the policy which our Government is pursuing with regard to education is quite out of date and anti-democratic and anti-national. It was introduced in India by the British Government which wanted to get recruits for running its administration in India and it served its purpose well. They wanted to divide the country and rule. I wonder why the Congress Government should also follow the same policy.

The last census operations during which unnecessary bitterness was created among the various sections of the people of this State have shown the harm that a defective educational policy can do.

The Budget figures show that while the total expenditure in the State has increased from rupees eight crores to rupees seventeen crores during the last few years, a very small portion of it is being spent on Education. Only 11·4 per cent falls to the share of Education Department when the Police gets 16 per cent and Security Departments 31 per cent. Expenditure per capita in the State is Rs. 1-4-0 on account of Education ; Rs. 2-4-0 on account of Police ; and Rs. 4-8-0 on account of Security Departments. There

are only 3,893 primary schools in this State with a population of one crore and twenty six lakhs. This State of affairs is deplorable. We should spend as much as we can on primary education so that we may be able to educate our coming generation at a very early date. In our State, there are only four lakh children who are getting education while in all there are about forty lakhs who can go to schools if arrangements are made for them.

As regards adult education and women's education the less said the better. Even the Five Year Plan does not do full justice to education. The amounts earmarked for education in the Five Year Plan are insufficient for such an important activity as education. If India is to become a prosperous country, we must not ignore the education of our children.

Another matter which I would like to discuss is the nationalisation of text-books. It has been remarked by some of the hon. Members sitting on the Treasury Benches that the Communists should not oppose nationalization. In this connection, I would like to state that we are in favour of nationalisation because it leads to an increase in production. We want to confiscate British capital and nationalise it to increase industrial production. If we want nationalisation of banks it is because the wealth which is now accumulated in the hands of a few capitalists will then be at the disposal of the State. If we want to abolish Jagirdari, it is because this step will lead to an increase in production because tenants will take initiative and interest and shall increase production.

But what is the advantage of nationalization of books? If the public were to stand to gain by this step, I would be the last person to oppose it. But I am sure the Government will not be able to make this scheme successful. It cannot get its own work printed in time. How can it undertake to get so many books published by itself? For the last few years, it has not been able to set up its own printing press. The Government has not been able to publish the Acts passed in 1949 and 1950. The Government Press charges are four times as much as those of the presses owned by the public. How can it make this scheme successful?

Teachers are the builders of the Nation but the builders are starving and in every respect under-fed. In Russia, teachers are the best-paid among Government servants and the teacher is the most respected person in the State. As regards the proposed scheme of merging the grades of the teachers, there is already an agitation going on against it. Most of the teachers are dissatisfied because the lift that they formerly could expect

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after a service of about six years has been denied to them under this arrangement. What they formerly could expect to get after seven years' service will now be given to them after twelve years' service !

The conditions prevailing in the colleges are also far from satisfactory. The salaries given to the college teachers are low with the result that they have to undertake private tuition work. This has an adverse effect upon the efficiency of their class room teaching work. The students are also hard-pressed. The fees that they have to pay, the hostel expenses and the expenditure on books etc, have increased enormously. It is difficult for students belonging to poor families to meet all these expenses. I have seen at places like Hoshiarpur and Jullundur students pulling rickshaws and doing such other jobs. It is a matter of shame for us. Those who criticize Mao Tse Tung should better learn from him the methods by which he has been able to make education so cheap in China that even a labourer's son is in a position to pursue higher studies. I think our policy is wrong and we should try to set it right.

Now, Sir, the last point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this. I take strong exception to the manner in which history is being taught in our schools. I will cite instances to show that certain incidents relating to our struggle for emancipation have been presented in history books taught in our schools in language which is most derogatory to our national self-respect and honour. We consider the 'Mutiny of 1857' as our first struggle for independence but it is generally described in history books in detractive language. I will just quote an extract. It is like this :

यह ग़दर दरअसल फौजी बगावत थी। कई मुफ़सद लोग हमेशा इस तार्क में रहते थे कि मुल्क में बदअमनी फैले। ऐसे लोग भी अक्बाम को खास कर फौजियों को सरकार अंग्रेज़ी के खिलाफ़ भड़का रहे थे। मगर खुशकिस्मती से पंजाब सर जान लार्न्स के मातहत वफ़ादार रहा। अंग्रेज़ों ने पंजाबी फौजों की मदद से दिल्ली का मुहसरा कर लिया।

ਜਹ ਗ਼ਦਰ ਦਰਅਸਲ ਫੌਜੀ ਬਗ਼ਾਵਤ ਥੀ। ਕਈ ਮੁਫ਼ਸਦ ਲੋਗ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਇਸ ਤਾਰਕ ਮੇਂ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਥੇ ਕਿ ਮੁਲਕ ਮੇਂ ਬਦਅਮਨੀ ਫੈਲੇ। ਐਸੇ ਲੋਗ ਭੀ ਅਵਾਮ ਕੋ ਖਾਸਕਰ ਫੌਜੀਓਂ ਕੋ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਕੋ ਖ਼ਿਲਾਫ਼ ਭੜਕਾ ਰਹੇ ਥੇ। ਮਗਰ ਖੁਸ਼ਕਿਸਮਤੀ ਸੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰ ਜਾਨ

ਲਾਰੰਸ ਕੇ ਮਾਤੈਹਤ ਵਫ਼ਾਦਾਰ ਰਹਾ । ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਫ਼ੌਜਾਂ ਕੀ
ਮਦਦ ਮੇ ਦਿਲੀ ਕਾ ਮੁਗ਼ਸਰਾ ਕਰ ਲੀਆ ।

Well, Sir, our head hangs down in shame when we find history books containing such accounts as injure our national sentiments and which are still being taught to our boys. Then, there is the proclamation of Queen Victoria. It is stated therein that—

ਯਹ ਏਲਾਨ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਕੀ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਕਾ ਸਬ ਸੇ ਬਡਾ ਚਾਰਟਰ ਤਸਥਰ ਕਿਆ
ਜਾਤਾ ਹੈ ।

ਯਹ ਏਲਾਨ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਕੀ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਕਾ ਸਬ ਸੇ ਬਡਾ ਚਾਰਟਰ
ਤਸਥਰ ਕੀਯਾ ਜਾਤਾ ਹੈ ।

I need not go into the details of this so-called Charter of Independence, though the fact cannot be gainsaid that it was rather the Charter of Bondage couched in ambiguous language. Then I would like to quote the observations made in a history book regarding the Rowlatt Act—

ਜੰਗੇ ਅਜ਼ੀਮ ਕੇ ਖ਼ਾਤਮੇ ਪਰ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਮੇਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਕੇ ਖ਼ਿਲਾਫ਼ ਬਹੁਤ
ਜਜ਼ਬਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋ ਗਯਾ ਥਾ । ਐਂਰ ਮੁਲਕ ਮੇਂ ਮੁਜਰਮਾਨਾ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਕਾ ਏਕ
ਜਾਲ ਫੈਲ ਗਯਾ ਥਾ । ਚੁਨਾਂਚਿ ੧੯੧੬ ਮੇਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਮੁਜਰਮਾਨਾ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ
ਕੀ ਰੋਕ ਥਾਮ ਕੇ ਲਿਯੇ ਰੌਲੇਟ ਐਕਟ ਪਾਸ ਕਿਆ ਜਿਸ ਕੀਰੁ ਸੇ ਹਕੂਮਤ
ਕੋ ਇਸ ਕਿਸਮ ਕੀ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਕੋ ਦਬਾਏ ਜਾਨੇ ਕੇ ਲਿਯੇ ਗ਼ੈਰਮਾਮੂਲੀ
ਇਖ਼ਤਿਆਰਾਤ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਥੇ ।

ਜੰਗੇ ਅਜ਼ੀਮ ਕੇ ਖ਼ਾਤਮਾ ਪਰ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਮੇਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ
ਕੇ ਖ਼ਿਲਾਫ਼ ਬਹੁਤ ਜਜ਼ਬਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਥਾ । ਐਂਰ ਮੁਲਕ ਮੇਂ
ਮੁਜਰਮਾਨਾ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਕਾ ਏਕ ਜਾਲ ਫੈਲ ਗਿਆ ਥਾ । ਚੁਨਾਂਚਿ ੧੯੧੬
ਮੇਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਮੁਜਰਮਾਨਾ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਕੀ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਕੇ ਲਿਯੇ ਰੌਲੇਟ
ਐਕਟ ਪਾਸ ਕੀਆ ਜਿਸ ਕੀ ਰੂ ਮੇ ਹਕੂਮਤ ਕੋ ਇਸ ਕਿਸਮ ਕੀ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ
ਕੋ ਦਬਾਏ ਜਾਨੇ ਕੇ ਲਿਯੇ ਗ਼ੈਰ ਮਾਮੂਲੀ ਇਖ਼ਤਿਆਰਾਤ ਹਾਸਲ ਥੇ ।

Since the time at my disposal is very short, I need not dilate upon this subject. I would, however, request the hon. Minister for Education to see that such history books are withdrawn from the schools and replaced by

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such history books as may create national spirit and national outlook in our boys.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to offer felicitations to the hon. Minister for Education for the promptitude with which he adopted measures to make education less expensive in the State and afford other educational facilities soon after assumption of office. I am, however, constrained to remark that instead of giving a word of praise for such progressive measures, my hon. Friends opposite have criticised them severely. They perhaps forget that this Assembly or for the matter of that this Ministry came into existence only the other day. It could not work wonders in such a short period. If I may say so, it did not possess any magic wand with which it could create overnight a 'new heaven and a new earth' of my hon. Friends' dreams. They should know that we cannot escape realities and while facing them we have to set things right gradually. The difficulty is that they do not see what is happening around them in the world. They read only Russian literature and are obsessed with whatever is Russian.

Then, Sir, we find that 150 to 200 schools have been opened through private effort. Is it not a step towards real progress in the State? If not, what else is it according to the estimate of my hon. Friends? It is a pity that they always take a jaundiced view of whatever is done by the Government in the best interests of the State. Now, Sir, when we, the members of the Congress Party, criticise certain actions of the Government, my hon. Friends opposite exult over it and cheer us and thump the tables. They perhaps feel that these criticisms indicate dissensions in the Ministerial Party and at any time disruption in it may take place. I may tell them that if they think so, then they are sadly mistaken. Our object in offering criticism is to offer constructive suggestions to the Government to enable it to further improve upon the measures adopted by it for the amelioration of the condition of the masses while agreeing with it on what it has already done. We urge upon it to examine those suggestions and endeavour to give effect to them for the benefit of the people.

Now I would like to make a few suggestions with regard to the motion under consideration. It goes without saying that the teacher is the real builder of the nation. We have read about king-makers in history books but here we have in the person of the teacher one who can rightly be called the maker of man as he moves about in this world. I would not be exaggerating things

if I say that all of us in this august House, whether occupying the Ministerial or Opposition Benches or holding high offices of Ministers or Speaker, owe all that we are proud of to this humble person. In this connection, I may cite the view held in the Islamic literature regarding the position of the teacher. According to this view, a child has three fathers, namely, one who is responsible for his birth, secondly the man who gives his daughter to him and thirdly his teacher. The last one has been given the highest place. It is a pity that we have not so far paid due attention to the teacher. It is our first and foremost moral duty to raise his status and prestige. Now-a-days, he does not fare better than a constable or, if I may say so, a peon. He is being treated very shabbily by the Managing Committees of private schools. He is entirely at their mercy. He can be turned out of the school and rendered jobless at one month's notice by the Managing Committee. If a person is not secure in his service, how can he be expected to give his undivided attention to his work. A teacher is really in a miserable plight. It behoves us to make a combined effort to ameliorate his condition and to try to give him his due as a nation-builder. It is no use indulging in tall talk about their condition in other countries like Russia, but we should all endeavour to do something tangible, something practical to improve his lot and raise his status, and prestige in the eyes of the people.

Now, Sir, the hon. Minister for Education has taken a very commendable step towards the nationalisation of text-books. It pains me to find that my hon. Friends opposite deprecate this also. I may point out that this is a step in the right direction. It may not be a great step, yet it is surely a progressive step. I am aware that after nationalisation certain text-books have not been published with the same expeditiousness with which they were wanted. However, I am sure they will be available in the market very soon. I would impress upon the Government the necessity of expediting the publication of the books which have been nationalised.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is over.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar (Tarn Taran) (Punjabi) : Sir, I would like to make a few observations regarding the Education Demand now before the House. It is a matter of gratification that the provision made in the Budget for the uplift of backward classes in this respect during this year is five times the amount earmarked during the past years. It also affords us great pleasure to find that the policy of nationalisation of text-books has been given effect to. Now the students will get books at cheap rates. It is a step in the right direction and a step towards progress.

[Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar]

Then, Sir, as you are aware, the operations for the consolidation of holdings of land in the State are being carried out by the Government. I want to suggest that in each village after the completion of the consolidation operations a reasonable area of land from the common land of the villages, namely, the shamilat, should be set aside for purposes of erecting buildings for schools in villages. This is most essential for the opening of new schools as also for the existing schools, which cannot afford facilities of playing grounds, etc., to the students.

The next point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government, is with regard to the list of schools maintained by the Government for the purpose of making grants. Now the difficulty is that all those schools which have not been included in this list are deprived of grants, no matter how deserving they may be. This is a great hardship to them. I am of the opinion that either the old list be abrogated and a new one prepared or the old one may be revised so as to include all the new deserving schools. This is necessary with a view to administering even-handed justice to all the schools which stand in need of grants-in-aid.

As the hon. Members are aware, our State specialises in two things. Firstly, we occupy a very important place in the matter of supplying men for the officers cadres and the ranks of the army and secondly our people are experts in agriculture. I shall, therefore, request the Government to provide such education in the schools and colleges, which may equip our students for these two vocations. Arrangements should be made for giving military education to all students in the high classes. In this connection, I want to submit that the Government should be more liberal in granting arms licenses. The Government has provided a huge sum of money for the General Administration, but I am sorry to find that many restrictions have been imposed on the grant of arms licenses.

Mr. Speaker : What relevancy has this subjects with the Demand under discussion ?

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : I have referred to this matter because I think that if proper arrangement is made for imparting military education in schools, the students will need arms for practising shooting.

Then, Sir, I beg to submit that the system of education should be such that after leaving their schools, our young men should be able to earn their living. At present, the number of un-employed among the educated people

is on the increase. We are told that within two or three years electricity would be available at all places in the State. If training for electricians' work is given in the schools, the boys will be able to put it to use for earning their livelihood. I have given this illustration to show that technical education is more useful than liberal education.

Along with this, I want to point out that the pay of the school teachers is very meagre and there is wide-spread discontentment among them. Instead of teaching properly, they are always on the look out for students who might engage them for private coaching. The sons of rich men alone can arrange for private coaching and the poor boys have to suffer. How can the poor boys compete with the sons of the rich in securing service, when they do not get the same facilities for receiving education ?

In spite of the claim made by the Government that everybody gets equal treatment in the matter of entering Government services, the sons of the rich enjoy a privileged position. The system of private tuition should be abolished. The only way of doing so is to increase the pay of teachers.

In addition to this, I beg to submit that instead of opening Government schools and colleges at places where private educational institutions already exist, these should be opened at places where these are needed most. If more schools are opened at places where a number of these already exist, it will be a sheer waste of money.

The last thing which I wish to say is that I belong to a district which is situated on the border. I shall request the Government to pay greater attention to the needs of border districts. The only district situated on the border where a college exists is Amritsar. The Government has done a very commendable act in opening a Government college at Umar-Tanda. It will be taking a still more beneficial measure if it opens a college at Tarn Taran also, where two or three schools exist. It will be a great service to the people of the border district.

Shri Daulat Ram (Kaithal) : Sir, today the discussion is going on the Demand for grant in respect of "Education" and as a person who has spent his whole life in this line, I am naturally interested in this subject and will, therefore, like to take part in it. I find that the provision made for "Education" in the Budget represents 12 per cent of the total expenditure of the State. When we compare this estimate with those of the foreign countries or even with our neighbouring States, we feel that it is less than 50 per cent of what it actually should be. This is really strange.

[Shri Daulat Ram]

First of all, I will try to explain to the House the conditions under which our teachers are living. Today, the foreigners and outsiders dub our teachers as the 'eighth wonder of the world'. It is because they go about half-naked and under-fed. On the contrary, if you look at the standard of living of teachers in foreign countries, you will be simply astonished. Their conditions of living are really wonderful and even beyond our expectations. Therefore, Sir, I do not exaggerate when I say that the lot of teachers, particularly in our State is very miserable. I have worked as Headmaster in certain schools for about 25 years and I have observed that the low-paid teachers have never been up to the mark from the point of efficiency, honesty or otherwise. The root cause of this is the meagre salaries given to them and this in turn naturally lowers their standard of efficiency etc. As an answer to this problem, I permitted the teachers to undertake private tuitions so that they could supplement their income and make both ends meet. Sir, when the conditions of our teachers who are often called nation-builders are such, you can never expect the State to progress in any way. Sir, from my personal experience, I can say that the conditions of teachers were not so bad in old days as they are at present. I will, therefore, request the Education Minister through you to do his best to ameliorate their condition.

I will briefly deal with the question of the salary of a teacher. His salary in the Punjab is not as high as it is in other States. Secondly, his salary as compared with his contemporaries working in other departments is very low. It is not a thing of which we can be proud. On the other hand, we should feel sorry for it. I will, therefore, suggest that the State Government should give sympathetic and active consideration to the question of an increase in the salaries of teachers. The starting pay of a Vernacular Teacher should not be less than Rs. 150 per mensem and that of a S.A.V. teacher not less than Rs. 200 per mensem. I will agree if in view of the existing financial stringency, a vernacular teacher is given a start of rupees 100 and an S. A. V. teacher Rs. 150 for the present.

I am going to put forward another suggestion which I hope the authorities will consider favourably. I suggest that the teachers must be provided with the following facilities immediately. The first is that their sons, daughters and wards must be fully exempted from payment of fees at any stage of their education, whether they are in an Arts College, in a school, in a professional college or in a technical college. Moreover, just as the Government provides a number of scholarships for students belonging to the back-

ward classes, I suggest, that the sons, daughters and wards of the teachers should also be awarded stipends and scholarships by the State Government.

Another important thing which I want to discuss is the security of service of teachers serving in private institutions. I have got personal experience about this. In private institutions, teachers can be turned out by a single stroke of the pen without assigning any reason. In my own school, Sir, under the instructions of the Manager of the School, I had to perform the unpleasant duty of turning out so many teachers without giving any reasons.

Some hon. Members : So you have also been doing it.

Shri Daulat Ram : Yes, I have done this unpleasant task under compulsion. Services of the teachers should not be terminated so mercilessly. To ensure this, I would suggest that in each school a Board, consisting of the Head Teacher, a representative of the Managing Committee and a departmental representative, should be established. This Board should be entrusted with the task of seeing whether justice is done to the poor teachers or not.

There are some rumours current that Professors are going to be recruited directly. If it is correct, the teachers in this department will be hit hard. I would request that this should not be done.

The question of the Provident Fund is another important question which I would like to discuss here. If you look into this question, you will find that the teachers who had been in Government service and are drawing pensions at present, got 10 times more than what ordinary teachers working in private schools get as Provident Fund on their retirement. If a teacher retires after 20 years of service, he gets at the most, say, 4 or 5 thousand rupees. Half of this amount is contributed by him during the course of his entire service towards this Fund. It means that at the most he gets 2 or 2½ thousand rupees from the Managing Committee. It is nothing as compared with the amount which is drawn by a teacher, after his retirement from Government service, in the shape of pension for at least 10 years. Moreover, while in Government service he earns much more than a teacher working in a private school. If the State Government is really anxious to improve the lot of teachers, it should issue orders whereby the teachers and managements should contribute 2 annas each towards this Fund instead of one anna at present being contributed by both the parties. If this is done, I hope, it will alleviate some of the hardships which the teachers have to experience after their retirement.

[Shri Daulat Ram]

As is well known, the trained teachers are not available in larger numbers. To solve this problem, I will suggest that the age of retirement of the teachers may be raised from 55 to 60. It will serve a two-fold purpose — the matured talent of teachers will benefit considerably their students and the teachers who are working in non-pensionable posts will also have some consolation.

Lastly, I wish to bring to the notice of the authorities some very serious happenings that are taking place in private institutions. So far we have been watching helplessly various persons from outside enter the school premises and insult and abuse the teachers. Sometimes they even go to the extent of beating and manhandling them. Sir, it is really a pity that instead of showing some respect to the tutorial staff, they should maltreat the teachers in such a manner. To curb the activities of these mischief-mongers, I would suggest that certain executive powers be vested in the Headmasters so that they could punish them.

MISREPORTING OF PROCEEDINGS BY NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. Speaker (Hindi): Before I call upon another hon. Member to speak, I have to make a reference to a very unpleasant affair. It has come to my notice that certain newspapers, and particularly one of them, published in this State, are persistently indulging in writings which are calculated to cast reflections upon the dignity of this House, the dignity of this Chair and bring a bad name to all of us. When I came to know some time back that it had gone to the length of describing this House as a 'fish market', I had in a letter addressed to the representatives of the press made a personal request to them that whatever the policy of their newspapers, they should not distort or misrepresent facts relating to the proceedings of this House. Now I find that a certain newspaper has given a garbled version of what I had stated in my letter under reference and even fun has been made of my statement "I am always here to keep the House in order. How can such things happen when I am there to conduct its proceedings." This paper has gone to the length of alleging that the relations of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker have become strained over the issue of 'newspapers' अखबारात though obviously what is meant is 'powers' अखत्यारात. This is also a pure lie, a preposterous and baseless allegation and an invention of this paper.

I have always held my journalist brethren in great regard and respect because I consider them to be a very valuable asset of our society. I am aware that the attitude of some newspapers is unfriendly towards us but we are not going to make a mercy appeal to them. Let them criticize us as they please but if they distort facts and attribute to this House things which have never happened, then of course they are a disgrace to the profession of journalism.

So I have to make this respectful submission to the representatives of the press that while considering themselves free to criticize any person, party or policy, they should make it a point never to deviate from truthfulness in so far as the reporting of the proceedings of this House is concerned. If any newspaper will even after this respectful request continue to indulge in misrepresentation of facts relating to this House, I shall, much against my will, be compelled to set in motion the legal procedure against it and take steps which no journalist would like me to take. I request the Press Gallery Committee kindly to go into this matter and take steps to ensure that such things are not repeated in future which are calculated to injure the dignity of this House and bring it into disrepute.

I may here quote from *May's 'Parliamentary Practice' in support of what I have just said :

'... the House of Commons resolved that to print or publish any books or libels reflecting on the proceedings of the House is a high violation of the rights and privileges of the House and indignities offered to their House by words spoken or writings published reflecting on its character or proceedings have been constantly furnished by both the Lords and the Commons upon the principle that such acts tend to obstruct the Houses in the performance of their functions by diminishing the respect due to them.'

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : Sir, with your permission, I would like to talk over this matter with the Press Representatives. For some time, I had been a member of the Punjab Journalists Association and I am sure it will be possible to reach some mutual understanding on this issue.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It was at your suggestion, Sir, that I withdrew my Privilege Motion a few days back. I would make a submission, Sir, that the hon. Members of this House feel that the representative of a particular Paper is taking undue advantage of your generosity. I think, Sir, today's incident should be referred to the Privilege Committee.

Shri Sri Chand : Will every Member be allowed to speak on this point, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : This is not under discussion.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (Hindi) : Sir, with your kindness I would like to give a few suggestions to the Minister for Education. The Five-Year Plan envisages three stages of education *viz.*, Basic, Secondary and University. Basic education is meant for children in the age group of 6-14 years. Today I want to dwell mainly on Basic Education.

Its spread and growth can be retarded possibly and probably by three bottle-necks *viz.*, lack of buildings, lack of properly-trained teachers and non-availability of funds to meet the running expenses. So far as the first bottle-neck is concerned, it cannot be removed so long as the P. W. D. remains, as Shri Rajagopalachari said our enemy No. 2 and moreover its removal to my mind is more urgent than is sometimes supposed to be. Countryside with its shady trees whose shelter can be utilized for holding classes, vast open fields which can serve the purpose of play grounds and abundance of milk provides ideal surroundings for wooing the muse of learning for the 'guru' as well as his disciple. So the cause of Basic Education is not likely to suffer for want of buildings.

As regards expenses I am definitely of the opinion that these should be borne by the Government itself. The system of making a demand upon the villagers to deposit a sum of Rs. 1,000 for the opening of a primary school is open to serious objections as it involves hardship for them. I understand the District Inspectors of Schools are corresponding with the District Boards for reducing the amount of this deposit to Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. I would urge that it is the duty of the Government to provide free primary education to the people.

The problem of properly-trained teachers capable of imparting basic education, especially knowledge of a craft to children in basic education schools, is to my mind the real bottle-neck which it is not easy for us to remove. The Government must take adequate steps to train a very large number of teachers in the system of basic education.

Then, Sir, I have to say a few words with regard to the language question to which a reference has already been made by one or two hon. Members on the floor of the House. There is no other State where so many subjects are taught to the boys as in the Punjab. In my opinion, we should leave out Geography and Arithmetic and teach to the boys four subjects *viz.*,

English, Hindi, Urdu and Gurmukhi. I would submit, Sir, that if we look to the past history, we shall find that when Englishmen came here the Mussalmans looked upon the English language contemptuously. The result of this was that the people of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay where schools for imparting education in English were first opened got a larger share in the services. Though Hindi which is our national language has been adopted in the Government Offices in many other States, our Punjab is going slow in this direction. In Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Bihar, and other States, Hindi has taken the place of English and it has been declared as a compulsory subject in the schools. The present system of teaching so many subjects to the boys is having an adverse effect upon them and the benefits accruing to them from the study of these subjects are not commensurate with the labour involved. On the other hand, we find that our national and regional languages have not captured the imagination of our boys and do not occupy the dearest place in their hearts. We should give these languages the places of honour which they actually deserve in the changed circumstances and bid good-bye to English and Urdu. There is no question of giving any importance to Urdu in the Punjab when Hindi has dethroned Urdu even in Lucknow which was its home. As regards the social education scheme, I have an experience of it myself and can say that this scheme has not proved successful here. I have seen that the people neither attend these centres in the mornings nor in the evenings.

Then, Sir, the library service is being started by the Government in the rural areas in order to remove mass illiteracy and ignorance. This step is no doubt commendable. Its objectionable feature to which I would like to refer is the provision of costly Art Paintings for decorating the poorly housed libraries in villages. It is just like providing a costly lip-stick to a negro girl or a Parkar fountain-pen to an unlettered man. I would suggest that instead of opening costly libraries, the Government will be well advised to open reading rooms with an expenditure of Rs. 50 per mensem or so, where Hindi newspapers may be provided for the use of villagers. But as to why the provision of costly oil paintings for the libraries at the cost of Rs. 1,000 per library should be made passes my comprehension.

Now wherever new schools are opened, the Government compels them to make arrangements for the libraries. It is really strange that when these schools can ill-afford to make suitable arrangement for the seating accommodation of the boys who are often made to sit under the shade of the trees, they should be compelled to set up Art Libraries. Nobody can deny the use and value of libraries but the question is where from the finance would

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]

come. We are already faced with the problem of opening new schools in villages and our primary object is to have more schools to spread literacy among the masses than to have costly libraries for villagers who do not even know the three R's. The crying need of the hour is to open schools where boys and girls should have compulsory basic education. The Government should not fritter away its meagre resources on the establishment of libraries at this stage.

Sardar Shamsher Singh (Ludhiana Sadar) (Punjabi) : Sir, ever since the Congress Government has held the reins of office, our standard of education has been gradually going very low. This is proved by the fact that the number of successful Punjabi candidates in the competitive examinations is gradually decreasing. Not a single candidate has been able to qualify in the combined Engineering Competitive Examination. I.A.S. and I.P.S. Competitions show gradual decrease of successful Punjabi candidates. It will be seen that the sum of Rs. 1,98,67,000 provided in the Budget for Education is quite inadequate keeping in view the work of educational reconstruction of our State. If the Government has any real intention to make the Punjab more progressive in the field of Education, then it should have provided a sum of at least three crores of rupees in the Budget for this purpose. There is no gainsaying the fact that we are still ages behind the advanced countries of the world. Our State cannot make any progress so long as we are educationally backward.

What we find today is that the Government has not even changed the system of our primary education. What I mean is that our primary education has not been brought in line with the scheme of basic education known as the 'Wardha Scheme' evolved by Mahatma Gandhi. We can initiate and carry on this scheme by giving the teachers the necessary training in the methods of basic education in the Summer vacations. Our Government is still blind by adhering to the old system of education introduced by Lord Macaulay. Now the position is that when a boy leaves the school or college he is fit only to be a 'Babu' somewhere. This system was primarily introduced for the mass production of 'Babus' for manning the British Government machinery. But now in the changed circumstances we are in need of engineers, doctors, lawyers, scientists and economists instead of cheap English knowing clerks. So we will have to revolutionise the whole system of education.

Our Government has not taken any steps for the advancement of the Adult Education Scheme. It should address itself seriously to this task so

that it may be able to banish illiteracy from the State by the time the next general elections are held. I admit that this system of education which has been in vogue for the last 150 years cannot be changed over-night but it would be better to make a start in this direction from now to achieve the desired end. Besides this, higher education is very expensive and the way in which it is being imparted in the colleges is most unsatisfactory. A recent shameful incident that occurred in S.D. College, Ambala, is a sad pointer to the fact that the professors are not even setting a high standard of morality before the students.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should avoid making a reference to it.

Sardar Shamsheer Singh : Sir, what I want to drive at is that the teachers' conduct should be above reproach and they should be men of sound character. Moreover, now-a-days schools and colleges are over-congested and with a view to relieve congestion in them it would be better if the Government opens new schools and colleges so that education may be imparted on right and sound lines. There is also an imperative need for raising the status of teachers who are now-a-days struggling pathetically to keep their body and soul together. Their salaries are so low that they have to take recourse to the private tuition work to supplement their petty income. By doing so, they take little interest in the education of the children in the class room. The best solution of this state of affairs is that their salaries should be increased and certain restrictions imposed on private tuition work so that class room work may not suffer.

Apart from this, I would submit, Sir, that education should be imparted on an equitable basis and more schools and colleges should be opened in villages to provide facilities to the rural students for cheap higher education. It has often been observed that experienced and efficient teachers do not like to go out of towns. But in the interest of the people living in the rural areas such teachers should be transferred to villages after three years of their stay in a town. If the Government is really anxious to renovate the system of education, it can do so without any difficulty. We have the example of China before us which has astounded the world with its all-round rapid progress.

Then, Sir, the Government has taken much credit for introducing the system of nationalisation of text-books but I would say that it has made a mountain of a mole-hill because the present education is useless for all practical purposes for Punjabis have not at all felt any relief from the high prices

[Sardar Shamsher Singh]

of the text-books. I would also suggest that the University should be shifted to some central place in the plains. (*At this stage Shri Mohammad Yasin Khan was seen reading newspaper.*)

Mr. Speaker : I may inform the hon. Member that he cannot be permitted to read a newspaper in the House.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : In the end, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister incharge of Education to the need for taking steps to improve the financial position of the schools and colleges, and to see that there is proper housing accommodation in these institutions. He should also issue instructions for the inspection of the libraries and laboratories and these should be upto the mark in every school and college. I think that to impart education which makes boys unfit for anything in their after life is useless and meaningless. In the end, I would request the Government to start giving Military training and instruction in agriculture in every school. Primary education should be made compulsory and free throughout the State.

Shri Raghuvir Singh (Seraj) (Hindi) : Sir the subject has already been sufficiently thrashed out by my hon. Friends. So far as my own constituency is concerned, I can say, Sir, that there is no such thing as education in it. There are a few schools which are functioning under the management of the District Board but about their condition the less said the better. Despite our best efforts teachers are not available for these schools. The reason for the paucity of the teachers is that people from the other districts of the State do not like to go and serve in that *ilaga* due to climatic unsuitability and high cost of living, while the local students cannot go in for higher studies after passing their Matriculation Examination on account of their poor financial position. I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that the Government should grant stipends to such students, in view of the fact that they belong to backward areas, so that ultimately they may become good teachers and the condition of education in that area may improve.

Then, Sir, as the population in the hilly tracts is scattered here and there, students have to traverse several miles in order to attend schools and the parents dare not send their children in bad weather marked by torrential rain, hail storms and snow falls due to which calamities like land-slides often occur. The result is that the poor children have to remain illiterate for the whole of their lives. In this connection I suggest, Sir, that itinerant schools may be started in that *ilaga* and should be

stationed for a period of three days in such a place where the maximum number of students can assemble and then shift to the next place. One thing more in this connection. The education of this *ilaga* should be such as may prove more beneficial to the students there. They should be made conversant with the methods of putting to the best use such hilly products as fruits, honey, etc., and such instruction should start from the eighth class so that the people of this hilly area may become aware of the hidden treasures in the forests and may make money to the maximum extent possible by exploiting these natural resources.

Then, Sir, the people of my *ilaga* are almost self-supporting so far as the house-building, cloth making, wool spinning and making of agricultural implements are concerned. But these cottage industries are antiquated and stereotyped and require a radical reform and I would suggest, Sir, that these cottage industries may be improved on modern scientific lines as is the case in Japan.

One point more, Sir, and I have done. After the attainment of freedom we have adopted Hindi as our *Rashtra Bhasha*. But the old disparity between the scale of pay of Vernacular and English teachers and Professors still persists which acts as a deterrent to the efficient performance of their duties by the Vernacular Teachers and retards the development of our national language and also compels the best intellects to go out of this profession. I, therefore, suggest that immediate steps should be taken to do away with this disparity so that both Hindi and Punjabi languages may flourish.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*): Sir, for the last 2 days, the house has kept itself busy in discussing the budget provision for Education. Many an hon. Member has pointed out the shortcomings in it. Some hon. Friends have tendered some suggestions in this connection which are hard to implement in view of our slender financial resources. Here is a pamphlet which reads that 'it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness around.'

The criticism levelled by the Opposition was devoid of constructive suggestions and they have not been able to light a single torch which would have helped the removal of utter darkness surrounding them. One of the Indian Russians had expressed himself in a queer way.

Sardar Achhar Singh: You are an American Indian.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : A reference was made by an hon. Friend to the spread of culture ; I do not know what type of culture he had in his mind Russian or Indian. Sir, I want to point out to the hon. Members of the Opposition that they have not been able to come forward with any constructive suggestions. They have been simply criticising the Government policy for the sake of criticism. Some one of them referred to the Community Project Scheme in the present discussion. They have only said that China has done this thing and that thing, but perhaps they do not know the reasons behind China's progress which I shall presently tell them. Recently, Shrimati Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, the respected sister of our Prime Minister, had gone to China with the Cultural Mission. I had a chance to hear her impressions about China. According to her, she had heard before leaving India that like our country that country was also busy constructing dams. She had first hand knowledge of the construction of Bhakra and Nangal Projects because she had a chance to visit them just before her departure to China. In China, she went to see a dam which was under construction. After undergoing a 2 days' difficult journey, she reached the site of that dam. There she saw an army of men busy in constructing the dam. She did not know whether that labour was working there voluntarily or under compulsion. They were not using any machinery in the construction of that dam. The labour belonging to both the sexes was working there. An old woman from among the labourers approached Mrs. Pandit and asked her if she had seen her country and its leader. Further she asked her whether she had also met and shaken hands with Mao Tse Tung. Then on getting a reply in the affirmative from Mrs. Pandit, she remarked that she had then seen the God of their country. By narrating her impressions about China, I wanted to inform the House of the spirit in which the working classes of that country are working and the respect they have for their leaders.

Then, Sir, though I have little knowledge of the conditions prevailing in China, yet I can tell the hon. Gentlemen sitting opposite some thing about Russia.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, is the hon. Member relevant ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes, he is relevant.

Captain Ranjit Singh : He is the son of the House. He may say anything.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it for the Chair or for the hon. Members to decide about the relevancy of a matter ?

Well, Sir, the changes that have been effected in the system of education are not of a far-reaching character. As a matter of fact, only a fringe of the problem has been touched. In other words, whatever changes have been brought about are only a matter of degree. The real change in the system of our education has yet to be brought about by the Government. I am constrained to remark that so far adequate attention has not been paid to this matter of vital importance.

It goes without saying that education, particularly the system of education, is the most essential factor, on which depend the progress and development of a country. Our efforts should be concentrated on the liquidation of illiteracy from among the masses. You will perhaps remember, Sir, that even in the days of yore, 'vidya dan' was considered to be the 'Maha dan' the highest of all charities. Not only this. Even in other countries, since times immemorial, it has been admitted that 'knowledge is power.' In other words, the necessity of education has been felt during all the ages for the progress of humanity. There was a time when India led the whole world in the matter of education. But when the Indians lagged behind in this sphere, they lost even their freedom and for centuries remained under the thralldom, of foreigners. Now that we have achieved independence after a long drawn struggle, we have to see whether the present system of education suits our purpose. If not, what sort of changes are required to be made in it. I feel that due attention has not been paid to this aspect of the matter.

Some of my hon. Friends have suggested that agricultural training should form the most essential part of the curricula in our schools. They are of the opinion that agricultural training right from the school stage is the crying need of the hour. I also subscribe to this view. But the Government has expressed its inability to do so due to the lack of funds. I am of the opinion that 'where there is a will, there is a way.' If the Government is bent upon introducing this subject in the schools, funds can be found for it. We have already seen that there are so many items in the demand for 'General Administration' upon which money is being wasted. If saving is effected in the Budget by making reductions in or eliminating those items, then that money can be conveniently utilised for purposes of education. In this connection, I want to make a suggestion. I hope it will prove very useful to the Government. I understand that there are 6 thousand acres of waste land in Karnal District. Now, if one thousand acres of this land are earmarked for a Rural University, I can guarantee that by breaking this waste land and placing it under the control and supervision of an Agricultural Expert it will be possible to ensure an income which will be sufficient not only to cover

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the expenditure that might have been incurred on the reclamation of this land but also to make the University self-sufficient so far as the finance required for its running is concerned. Besides, I can also guarantee that every year this University will send out 100 persons fully trained in agriculture and farming. Since they will be taken from villages, they will after completion of their course, establish model farms in rural areas and will thus help in giving a fillip to the agricultural industry in the State. I am sure if this can be achieved in Karnal, there is no reason why this scheme should not prove a success in other parts of the State.

Well, Sir, another point to which I want to draw the attention of the House is this. The management of schools under the charge of the local bodies, both District Boards and Municipal Committees, is most defective. I would request the Government to provincialize these schools and the grants now given to the local bodies for running these institutions may be stopped. This is the crying need of the hour and I hope the Government will take prompt action in the matter.

Now, whenever a question of rural and urban people is raised some of my hon. Friends say that we are obsessed with a sort of mania for the ruralites. May I just draw their attention to the Directive Principles, wherein the expressions 'backward' and 'rural areas' occur. Now if the accredited leaders of our country can discuss and make provisions in the Constitution of India for the betterment of the backward and rural classes, there is no reason why my hon. Friends should take exception to such a demand when it is made in this House. Since the time at my disposal is over, I wind up my speech with a request to the Government to make every endeavour to improve the lot of the masses who dwell in the rural areas.

Shri Teg Ram (Khuian Sarwar) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, it is stated in the Shastras that true knowledge or real education is that which delivers the man from his worldly bonds and also elevates his character. Besides this, it makes him economically and politically independent. Not only this. It enables him to overcome all the difficulties that confront him while moving in the world. Even in days of yore, the cherished goal of our sages and Rishis was that the people of our country should receive such an education as may transform them into men of high character and raise them morally and intellectually. Then, Sir, it is an acknowledged fact that it is real education that can help make a society or a nation powerful, be it economically or physically. I, therefore, request the Government to introduce such a system of education

in the State as may help us in the realisation of that high goal of which I have already made a mention in the beginning of my speech.

Now-a-days the system of education, that is in vogue in our country, is the same as had been introduced by the British during their regime. The British ruled our country in a very clever manner. They took the education of our country in their own hands so that our country may remain under bondage for a long time. In other words their object was to keep India in thralldom by creating an army of clerks who should become the yes men of the Government and spend their whole life in doing odd clerical jobs. But I am constrained to remark that even after the attainment of Independence, no radical change has been brought about by the Government in the system of our education, which continues to be based on the British pattern.

In this connection I would like to apprise the House of the view held by the late Mahatma Gandhi on the subject, which he had formed after giving a careful thought to the defects existing in the present system of education. He was strongly of the view that unless and until we changed this system of education, the country would not be able to achieve real freedom. Even if it attained political independence, our countrymen would not be able to make any headway, as compared with the people of other independent countries, in the spheres of education, physical development and economic prosperity. Keeping these facts in view, the Mahatma had prepared the Wardha Scheme of Education. At first our countrymen did not welcome this revolutionary scheme or evince any enthusiasm about it. But when the educationists perused it seriously, they found this scheme to be of the highest order. The first principle of Mahatma Gandhi to which he attached great importance in connection with the imparting of education, was that the child should receive education in his own mother tongue, that is in the language spoken in his house and ilaqa. Along with this he should receive instruction in some handicraft also. So this is the crux of Mahatma Ji's views about education, and about Wardha Scheme, which he placed before eminent educationists and savants of this country in several conferences held for discussing this scheme. The educationists accepted this scheme and it is my firm belief that our State can make a rapid progress educationally only when our Government adopts this scheme and translates it into action. So, as I have already stated, if our country is to go ahead, become powerful physically and economically and achieve prosperity, then we must follow the principles laid down by Mahatma Ji.

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Now we have to see whether our Budget for education admits of any scope for an improvement on the basis of the scheme put forward by Mahatma Gandhi. We find that in the State of Punjab the number of schools including the high and middle ones, is about 5000, and this year only 18 new basic schools are going to be opened. I think that the number of basic schools is most inadequate. While congratulating the hon. Minister for Education on opening new basic schools, I would request him to make a provision for the establishment of a larger number of such schools, because in this lies the advancement of our country. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I bring my speech to a close, by making this observation that Government should arrange to open such schools in the rural areas, wherein instruction in handicrafts is also given to the children of the villagers with a view to improving their economic condition. I would also request the Government to make an endeavour to open schools in every village so that the children of the village folk may receive the light of knowledge and become useful citizens of the State.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, this is the second day of discussion on the demand for education and the majority of the hon. Members who have expressed their views about it have complained that the amount provided in the Budget under this head is very small. Some hon. Members had given notices of cut motions but I know that most of them will withdraw these after one and a quarter hours. We have to compare the attitude of our Government with that of the British rulers. The latter wanted to keep the people under subjugation and this was possible only if the masses remained illiterate. With that object in view, instead of imparting education in Hindi and Punjabi, the teaching of the English language began in the fifth class. People hoped that with the Congress Government coming into power, great progress would be made in the sphere of education, tuition fees would become less and the pay of school teachers would be increased, but we find that the amount provided in the Budget is very meagre. In a country which wants to progress, it is necessary to provide a large sum of money for the education of masses. It is due to political reasons that our Government has provided a very small sum for this purpose. It wants to perpetuate Jagirdari and capitalism and does not, therefore, wish to spend much for the development of industries and promotion of education. It spends a major portion of its revenues on repressive departments. We notice that a very large amount is going to be spent on General Administration. Jagirdari leads to unemployment

and in order to suppress unrest resulting from unemployment, the Government has to spend huge sums on the police, jails and such other departments. How many new schools have been opened and what has been done to encourage education among the masses? The majority of the people are very poor and they have not the means for educating their children. They are groaning under the burden of heavy taxation. If a farmer mortgages his land and manages to send his children to school, he finds it difficult to pay their tuition fees. Books are very costly and these are changed every year. Formerly, a child could read the books purchased by his elder brother or sister but now it is not possible to do so, on account of their being changed almost every year. I shall request the Government to reduce their expenditure under the Head 'General Administration' and to provide more money for education. The pay of teachers should be increased. Our Government used to say that they would establish a network of schools, but I find that only 125 new primary schools were opened during the last four years. The number of schools for girls is very small. If the building of some school is damaged or collapses, nobody cares to repair or reconstruct it. The District Boards express their inability to do much in this direction on account of paucity of funds.

Shri Maru Singh Malik (Sampla), (Hindi) : Sir, there is a great need for revolutionising the system of education in this State, and we should see whether our Government is prepared to do so. The total amount provided for education in the Budget this year is undoubtedly larger than that provided last year, but whereas its proportion to the total expenditure was 11·96 last year, this year it is 11·65 per cent. This shows that as compared with other departments, the expenditure on education will be less this year. What progress can our State make, when instead of providing more money for education, our Government is increasing its expenditure on other departments? At least twenty-five per cent of the total expenditure should be on education. No progress is possible without educating the masses. Moreover, the system of education needs to be revolutionised. The old system is still being followed and no effort has been made to change it. Under this system, the number of unemployed persons in the State is increasing every year. How many of our students, who leave schools and colleges get employment? This shows that the amount which is being spent on education is not resulting in the good of the people. Every penny of the public money should be spent in such a manner as may lead the country towards progress. I notice that the amount of money spent on spreading education in the towns and cities is much larger than

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that which is spent in villages. There are about four thousand primary schools in the villages. This means that only one-third of the villages have got such schools while the remaining two-thirds are without these. In order that our State may make real progress, special attention should be paid to the opening of primary schools in the rural areas.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (Hindi): Sir, today we are discussing the demand for Education included in the Budget, which has been prepared by the Government of the people. We should examine it with a view to seeing whether our Government has taken proper steps for spreading education in the State proportionate with the limited finances at its disposal.

I am, however, sorry to note that some of my hon. Friends have looked at it from the old point of view. They have criticised it for the sake of criticism. Such attitude is not conducive to the progress of the State. We should carefully examine the work done by the hon. Minister for Education. It is easy to say that this thing or that should have been done but we should not close our eyes to our resources. We can do only those things which our finances permit. It cannot be denied that the amount provided for Education is the maximum that is possible under the circumstances. No substantial change can be made in the Budget by transferring a small amount from one head to another. It has been said that a huge sum is being spent on the Police, but I wish to tell my hon. Friends who made this complaint that they themselves are responsible for it. If peace and tranquillity prevailed in the State, the expenditure on Police could be considerably reduced. I can say that if the general character of the public is raised, the entire amount of Rs. 273 lakhs, which is spent on Police, would be utilised for education.

Mr. Speaker : I shall request the hon. Member not to cast reflection on the hon. Members of this House.

Sir, it is a matter for gratification that the Minister for Education has in this very short period since he took the oath of office taken pains to introduce some novel and commendable measures such as the nationalisation of text-books, revision of the scales of teachers, etc. In this connection, I cannot help expressing my astonishment at the criticism that has been levelled against the decision to nationalise text-books by those who claim to be in favour of out and out nationalisation. It did not behove them to give their

factionous spirit a free rein even in this matter. But the force of habit is irresistible and so it is not their fault !

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : First nationalise bigger things.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade : The Government has accepted the principle of nationatisation and proposes to introduce it progressively. I am glad that in spite of the criticism of these Friends the Minister for Education is firm on implementing the decision to nationalise the text-books. I hope this House would lend its fullest support to him in this matter and then encourage him to introduce more beneficial measures. A very important matter to which I have to draw the attention of the Government is the need for the upliftment of the backward areas through education. As already pointed out by some hon. Friends, the Government should first concentrate its attention on removing these blank spaces on the educational maps of this State. These areas are mostly comprised in the districts of Kangra, Gurgaon, Hoshiarpur and Karnal and deserve a preferential treatment owing to their backwardness and so the Government should allocate the maximum amount possible for the promotion of Education in them. I regret to have to point out that there is not a single Normal School in Kangra. Another grave problem that faces the educationists in this district and to which Rai Raghuvir Singh has also referred is the non-availability of trained teachers willing to serve in the schools situated in the rural areas of this district. Even if we manage to secure for these schools the services of trained teachers belonging to other districts of the State, they do not stick there for long owing either to the un-suitability of the climate or the difficulty of having to drink water collected in the pools, or to live in *kacha* houses in villages which have nothing to offer in the form of modern amenities of life. I happen to be connected with a high school and am faced with this very problem. We are prepared to offer comparatively better terms and more attractive salaries than the other schools but trained teachers are not willing to serve in these villages due to the difficulties I have already mentioned. We are prepared to make over this school with all its assets to the Government. Either the Government should arrange to lend us the services of trained teachers for this school or take it over because with the best possible will in the world we have failed to secure the services of trained teachers for it.

In the end, I would make this submission to the Minister for Education that in view of the conditions prevailing in our State, the conditions laid down for recognition of schools regarding employment of trained teachers should be completely relaxed if we have to encourage education in these areas. We are not rich enough to construct good buildings for our schools.

[Shri Ram Chandra Comrade]

Nor is it proper to retard the progress of education because of non-availability of trained teachers. If trained teachers are not willing to serve in the schools in backward areas, the managements should be allowed to engage untrained teachers. The D. P. I, when he visited our village had to take drinking water with himself and so he knows our difficulties very well.

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) (Hindi) : Sir, I have carefully listened to the views expressed by my hon. Friends in regard to education and this has given me pleasure as well as pain — — — pleasure because of the fact that all the Members who had given notices of cut motions have with one voice recommended to the Government allocation of more money for my Department. Thus far I have been fortunate. It is true that in this short period in which I have been in office I have not been able to persuade the Government to allocate much more funds for education but I want to inform my Friends that the money provided for education this year represents an increase of Rs. 7,75,350 over the last year's grant. I am beholden to the Members of this House for recommending my Department for allocation of more money and I hope it will have a larger grant next year.

I have felt a little pained too because though the hon. Members had not cared to send me any suggestions in reply to the letter that I had addressed to all M.L.As' and M.L.Cs'. shortly after taking the oath of office they have now during these two days of debate made several objections and levelled criticisms at the Education Department. Had they made their suggestions at that time, I would have certainly asked the Department to look into them and by this time I would have been in a position to give a reply to them. That they did not respond to my invitation then and they have made all sorts of objections now is a matter of deep regret to me. My second regret is that as much interest has not been evinced in this department as its importance called for. I think there is hardly a Member who during his election campaign was not presented by his voters with grievances of the *ilaga* with regard to the lack of educational facilities such as non-existence of Primary, Middle or High Schools. Today the attendance is fairly good but on the previous day it was no more than the bare quorum.

Now, Sir, as it may not be possible for me to reply to every point raised in the course of the debate, with a view to clinching the issues, I might enumerate the points to which I propose to give a reply in my speech.

- (1) That the system of education is old, antiquated and has outlived its utility and should be changed.

- (2) That the Government is not spending enough on education.
- (3) That the Government should introduce free and compulsory primary education.
- (4) That the number of schools is inadequate.
- (5) That the teachers are being given meagre salaries and the decision to give them time scales is open to serious objections.
- (6) That the schools and colleges are ill-equipped.
- (7) That the number of Girls Schools is not sufficient.
- (8) That the school curricula should be changed.
- (9) That the schools run by the local bodies should be taken over by Government.
- (10) That the Government is spending too much on European Schools.
- (11) That the number and amounts of scholarships are inadequate and more scholarships should be given to Harijans.
- (12) That the text-books should or should not be nationalised and that the prices should be lowered.
- (13) That the fees should be reduced.

These are, Sir, the issues that have been raised in the course of the two-day debate. Now, Sir, before giving a reply to these criticisms, I would like to submit that all of us here are the representatives of the masses and so we should not hesitate to admit our weaknesses, drawbacks or handicaps.

I have no hesitation in agreeing with my hon. Friends that the present system of education must be changed (*Cheers*). I also agree that the arrangement of education in schools is far from satisfactory. There is not enough accommodation in some schools and the boys are made to sit in the sun. At the same time, I agree that compulsory primary education should be introduced at an early date. I also admit that the salaries of the teachers are very low and must be raised. But I require the co-operation of all the hon. Members to solve all these problems. I think that without their co-operation, these problems of education can never be solved. The hon. Members are quite aware that our State is faced with financial difficulties and I have not with me the proverbial Alladin's lamp to help me to achieve the desired object in a minute. I also feel that without the necessary funds and their co-operation it is not possible for me to solve the educational problems of the State. I would ask that the people should not solely depend upon the Government for

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opening schools and colleges for them. The hon. Members know, Sir, that Uttar Pradesh is three times the size of our State. There are only five Government colleges in it and the remaining colleges are all privately-managed. There, the public evince great interest and enthusiasm in opening private schools and colleges.

An hon. Member has raised an objection that in spite of the fact that some private schools have got the necessary funds and suitable accommodation, these institutions are not being recognised by the Government. In this connection, I may inform the House that the Government has issued a circular that the conditions pre-requisite for the recognition of any school would in future be relaxed. If my hon. Friends make efforts to open new privately managed primary and middle schools the Government shall relax the prescribed conditions with regard to the specified area of land and accommodation in their case. The Government is also prepared to allow them to employ 25 per cent untrained teachers in such schools.

Then, Sir, an objection has been raised to the effect that the private schools and colleges which have been opened by religious institutions like the Sanatan-Dharam, the Arya Samaj and Sikh Gurdwaras impart education on communal lines which engenders fanaticism and egotistical bigotry. I might tell my hon. Friends that the Congress victory in the last general elections has given a death-blow to communalism in the State. The Congress has captured 80 per cent of the seats in the Legislature. We fully realise that to make a nation great education should be compulsory, secular and liberal. We have issued instructions to all the schools and colleges that education should be completely divorced from all communal considerations. We have brought this fact home to all the heads of the private institutions that secular outlook must be preserved and if any institution drifts towards communalism it will not only forfeit the grant-in-aid from the Government but its name will also be removed from the list of the recognised institutions.

We have also impressed upon them the need of adjusting their expenditure to the sanctioned grant keeping in view the financial stringency. I am of the view that private enterprise can give a greater fillip to the development of education in our State. At the same time, I would like that these private institutions should also take upon themselves the responsibility of educating the masses on non-communal lines.

So far as compulsory primary education is concerned, we intend to introduce a bill in this behalf in the next Session. Besides this, I would submit, Sir, that there are about 16,000 villages in our State wherein there are 4826 primary schools. We have a plan to open 1,000 primary schools every year out of which 200 schools have already been opened (*Cheers*). I would appeal to the hon. Members to extend their co-operation to us in this task. We might well be able to open 10,000 schools within the next five years, if each hon. Member undertakes the task of opening 10 schools in his constituency every year. Under the Community Project Scheme, 300 to 400 more schools will be opened this year. It would mean that we would have 1,500 more primary schools in villages this year. I may also inform the hon. Members that the gross expenditure to be incurred on the primary schools this year is of the order of Rs. 1,30,25,000 as against Rs. 1,98,670 of last year. The ratio of expenditure on primary and University education is 4:1.

So far as the overhauling of the system of education is concerned, I would like to read before the hon. Members a page from the report of the Advisory Board of Education of which my sister Shrimati Sita Devi was also a member. It runs as follows :—

“In 1949-50 the Government took steps to overhaul the system of education according to the needs of the present times. An advisory Board of Education was constituted to formulate a scheme with regard to the curriculum of education from the first primary to the eighth middle class. In 1951-52 a syllabus was prescribed for these classes. The outstanding features of the new scheme are that great emphasis has been laid on the health side and social and sports activities of the children. The Government is committed to the policy of introducing basic education in the State. Agriculture, weaving and spinning are the crafts which form the basis of basic education. It has also been decided that as soon as funds and trained teachers are available the present schools will be converted into basic schools. In addition to the above-mentioned important handicrafts some more handicrafts have been introduced such as sugarcane work, earthenware, paper-making, soap-making and ink-making etc. Besides this, arrangement for many crafts have also been made for the students which are as follows :—

1. Preparation of models of pet animals.
2. Construction of a village.
3. Construction of a bazar.
4. Construction of a shop.
5. Working of a post office.
6. Construction of a kitchen.
7. Cooking.

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For the present, basic education has only been introduced in the primary classes. In the year 1950-51, the Government opened 25 basic primary schools and the same number of such schools was opened in 1951-52. During the current year, the Government proposes to start 18 basic primary schools. Steps are being taken to convert such existing primary schools into basic schools as have land adjoining them together with irrigational facilities, or where the work of spinning and weaving can be started. The question of introducing basic system in the middle classes is also under the consideration of the Government. This will take place at the time when the students have passed the basic primary stage.

Then, Sir, in 102 middle schools, instruction is being given in agricultural education and these schools have got gardens and agricultural farms attached to them. In 20 high schools, industrial classes have been opened in which carpentry is taught to the students. In order to develop the habit of hard work, it has been decided to send the students of schools and colleges to the famine-stricken area of Hissar District where they will help in the work of excavation of canals. As a result of the efforts made in connection with the 'Grow More Food Campaign,' 3859 acres of land attached to educational institutions have been brought under cultivation. The total yield of 5310 maunds of foodgrains from this land brought an income of Rs. 58,077 to the Department. Commercial classes have also been opened in five schools and in order to meet the demand for basic-trained teachers the Government has opened two basic-training schools in the State. Besides this, five basic-training schools are running under private management. Out of these, there are two new schools and the remaining three are old Normal Schools which have been converted into 'basic centres.' Collegiate education is under the control of the University.

It is just possible that some hon. Members might have difference of opinion about the present system of education. After all, they should know that we have inherited this system of education from the old regime and it was not possible for us to change it within this short period of about two months. I, however, accept the suggestion that an Advisory Committee should be set up by the Government to make recommendations for overhauling the present system of education.

It is a fact that the teachers are in receipt of very low salaries and I had thought that with the introduction of the new time scales they would surely be benefited. But I have come into contact with many teachers who

are of the view that 70% of the teachers will not derive any benefit from the new time scales while some of them claim to have been benefited to some extent. I, therefore, want to make it clear that there is no restriction upon them and they are free to opt for the new time scales or remain under the old rules.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Can both the grades remain in force ?

Minister for Education : Yes, both the grades will remain in force. Then, Sir, the Government has increased the pay of a professor from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200. One of the hon. Members has pointed out that foreign-qualified professors will not become available on this pay. My submission, Sir, is that if they were available on Rs. 150 per mensem they should be available on Rs. 200 also.

It has also been stated that the schools and colleges are ill-equipped and ill-housed. I am fully conscious of the poor state of some of our schools and colleges. I have myself seen in some primary schools run by the District Boards that the classes are held in the open under the shade of trees and whenever there is rain, etc., the classes are not held at all. To improve the conditions in these schools, the department has ordered that the use of 'tats' should be abandoned. I might add for the information of the House that in the long run these 'tats' cost more than desks. Their life is only 2 years and they soon get charged with dust and dirt and become very insanitary for use. Orders have been issued to give to students of the primary classes wooden 'patras' which will be less expensive in the long run and will have a longer life and will give cleaner seats to the students. Efforts are also being made to supply benches in high schools and if funds become available this proposal will be given effect to within one year. So far as the question of accommodation is concerned, primary schools can well be housed in a mandir, gurdwara or a mosque and if such accommodation is available in some villages, Government will look into the feasibility of opening primary schools there. Science equipment of schools and colleges is also being given the attention it deserves.

Shrimati Sita Devi has pointed out that female education has not received the attention it deserves and Shri Sri Chand has criticised the system of co-education. I may inform the hon. Lady Member that by an order of the Government fees chargeable in recognised schools for girls will be 50% lower than those charged in boys' schools. Efforts are being made to open as many girl schools as possible. Some people are against the system of co-education while some are in favour of it. The Government encourages girl

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schools wherever they are opened. Then, Sir, there is the question raised by Shrimati Sita Devi that curricula for girls should be reconstructed to meet the special needs of women. I know, Sir, that she was a very prominent member of the Punjab Advisory Board of Education and its various Committees which framed curricula for the schools of the State and I do think that she could have had these changed if she had so wished. However, even the present curricula prescribed for girls includes instruction calculated to fit them for household duties.

It has also been pointed out by an hon. Member that expenditure on European schools is not justified and that I have been on tour all along and as such am not aware of the conditions under which the Budget has been prepared. In this connection, the attention of the hon. Members is invited to Article 337 of the Constitution of India which runs as follows :—

During the first three financial years after the commencement of this Constitution, the same grants, if any, shall be made by the Union and by each State specified in Part A or Part B of the first schedule for the benefit of the Anglo-Indian community in respect of education as were made in the financial year ending on the thirtyfirst day of March 1948.

During every succeeding period of three years the grants may be less by ten per cent than those for the immediately preceding period of three years.

Provided that at the end of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution such grants, to the extent to which they are a special concession to the Anglo-Indian community, shall cease :

Provided further that no educational institution shall be entitled to receive any grant under the article unless at least forty per cent of the annual admissions therein are made available to members of communities other than the Anglo-Indian community.

In these schools, 1287 students receive education out of which 1150 are Indians.

Shrimati Sita Devi : They must be the sons of the high-ups.

Minister for Education : Such students are only 10 % of the whole lot.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not take any notice of the interruptions and proceed on with your speech.

Minister for Education : Then, Sir, it has been pointed out that scholarships for students should be larger in number and the value of each scholarship should be related to present day cost of living. Inadequacy of

scholarships are being examined and both the value and the number of scholarships will, I hope, be substantially increased.

Suggestions have been offered to the effect that arrangements should be made for the training of teachers in drawing, agriculture, art and craft. I may inform my hon. Friends that Drawing Masters as also Art and Craft Masters are now being trained at the Punjab Government Art School, Simla, under the auspices of the Department of Industries. Similarly, Agriculture Teachers are being given a "special-in-service" course at the Punjab Agriculture College, Ludhiana. Arrangements for the training of teachers of modern Indian languages are under consideration.

Then, Sir, it has been said that facilities to Harijans for receiving higher education should be further added to. In this connection, I would like to state, Sir, that an amount to the tune of Rs. 500,045 has already been set apart for this purpose which though more than that of the last year is in my opinion still inadequate, and if the hon. Members continue giving their co-operation to me this amount can further be enhanced.

Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to an important subject, that is the nationalization of books. Much has been said about it. This scheme of the Government has been opposed by that quarter of the House, from which opposition was least expected. My Friends have opposed it because our Government has no printing press of its own and on that account the books will not be available to the students in time. I admit that at present the Government has no printing press of its own but I want to bring to their notice that for the time being Government has not nationalized all the books. So far only a few books have been nationalized. Then, Sir, I want to tell them for their information that the Government has, however, reduced the rates of printing. Now we are getting 180 pages printed for one rupee instead of 160 pages as previously. As regards the printing work in the English script, it has been settled that we will get 116 pages printed per rupee as against 100 pages.

Further, Sir, I want to inform the hon. Members that I have been able to persuade the publishers to sell books at cheaper rates. The first primer sold at 0-7-6, would now be available at 0-3-6 and the 2nd primer which was sold at 0-9-6 will now be sold at 0-5-6. Then, Sir, I hope that these will be made available in the market within 3 months' time. It will be seen, Sir, that we have managed to get the prices of these books reduced to such an extent even when these are being published by the

[Minister for Education]

private agencies. We hope to reduce these prices even further as soon as the Government printing press starts working.

Then, it has been stated that the text-books are generally changed every year in order to benefit publishers. When the Government has nationalised the text-books and publishes these through its own agencies' I assure the House that these will not be changed frequently with the result that the students community will benefit.

Sir, this scheme of nationalisation is full of advantages and through you I appeal to the hon. Members sitting opposite not to oppose it. They should co-operate with the Government for spreading education among the masses which is our common cause. They may oppose the Government, if they like in other matters. The education of children is an issue, on which all of us should be equally agreed.

I also want to inform my Friends of the Communist Party that the Government now hopes that the printing of books will be done quickly. We have requested the hon. Minister for Capital to give top priority to the construction of the building for the Government Printing Press at Chandigarh. The machinery for this press is already lying there and it is hoped that it will soon be set up and will be ready for operation. We hope to get one-half or one-third of the books printed in that printing press as soon as it starts working.

Then, Sir, the next question before our Government is that books should be made available at cheaper rates. In this connection I want to inform the hon. Members of this house that we hope to bring about 30 to 35 per cent reduction in their prices as soon as complete nationalization of books is done.

The next point that has been raised in this House and with which I totally agree is that there is an acute shortage of accommodation in the schools and the students are being refused admission. I hope that the hon. Members will be pleased to know that the Government is seriously considering the starting at an early date of the double shift system in the schools. This will remove the difficulty of paucity of accommodation for students in the schools.

Then, Sir, through you I want to inform the hon. Members that the Government has decided to stop middle school examination in view of the agitation going on in the press of this State against it.

Further, Sir, it has been said by some hon. Members that the Government should pay more attention towards technical education. I fully realize its importance. By your permission, Sir, I shall read out the details of work being done for the development of technical institutions though this is not my subject. It is a subject of the hon. Finance Minister.

There are 19 Industrial Schools and Institutes for boys run by the department. The Institute of Textile Technology at Amritsar imparts training in cotton and silk weaving. The Hosiery Institute at Ludhiana has courses for training of foremen and supervisors in the hosiery trade as well as in the artisans class of technicians engaged in the industry. The institute of Dyeing and Calico Printing, Ludhiana, imparts training in dyeing and calico printing. The Wood Working Institute at Jullundur gives training—theoretical and practical in modern wood work. There is also a Training Institute at Jullundur which provides training in leather technology. Metal working, welding, turning and machine fitting are the subjects taught in another institution run by the department at Ambala. The subjects in which training is given in the Industrial Schools for boys include carpentry, smithy, cotton, silk and wool spinning and weaving, hosiery, machine building etc., etc. In addition to the above, there are eight Industrial Schools for girls which impart training in a number of crafts useful for women, e.g., tailoring, embroidery, silma, till a work, soft toy making, knitting, leather work, cooking, etc. Technical education is steadily gaining popularity in the State, and the number of students in the various institutions of the department has gone up by 40 to 60 per cent during the last one year, bringing our figures to the highest record so far. About 2000 students are trained in these institutions every year.

Another point that I want to clear in this House is that one of the hon. Members has said that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to the District Board Ludhiana in giving it grants for education purposes. It is clear from the figures of the last five years, which I am going to place before this House, that the grants given to this District Board have been increasing each year after the partition with the exception of the year 1950—51.

The grants which have been given to this District Board during the

[Minister for Education]

last five years are as follows :—

Year			Amount
1947—48	...	...	Rs. 5,91,705
1948—49	...	...	Rs. 6,62,148
1949—50	...	...	Rs. 7,40,505
1950—51	...	...	Rs. 7,00,255
1951—52	...	...	Rs. 7,45,151

The hon. Member seems to have given wrong figures. He might have referred to the amount of grant of Rs. 1,36,653 given last year in respect of vernacular education only. The total grant on all items comes to Rs. 7,45,151 for the same year.

Sir, Shrimati Sita Devi has asked for information regarding the state of Physical Training. In this connection, I would like to tell her that we have earmarked a sum of rupees five lakhs for starting a College of Physical Training at Chandigarh.

Shri Abdul Ghani desires to know the position of Urdu as a medium of instruction in the State. I want to state for his information that the media of instruction right upto the tenth class are Hindi and Punjabi. I have already stated that Urdu still remains at places where it is needed.

My hon. Friend Sardar Darbara Singh has requested the Government to take over District Boards Schools under its own management. At this time, I cannot express any opinion on this matter. This is an important matter and so a decision on it can be arrived at by the Government after due deliberation. Anyhow, my personal view is that although we are paying liberal grants to the District Boards, they do not appear to be running schools which are under their management efficiently. The salaries of the teachers in such schools are not paid regularly, and this matter is under the active consideration of the Government. The Minister for Local Government is being consulted and it is proposed to get an amount equal to two months' salary of the staff deposited by every District Board so that the payments may be made out of the deposited amount in cases of emergency.

Some of the hon. Members have ventilated a grievance of the people that at some places the schools are few and far between, and so the boys have to cover long distances in order to reach a school. In this matter, we realise the

difficulties of such students and are willing to do whatever we can for them. But as I have already stated somewhere else, a duty also devolves upon the hon. Members to do whatever lies in their power in this matter. I have suggested that every hon. Member should try to open at least ten schools by mobilising public opinion in his area. This proposal will, I think, go a long way in meeting the shortage of schools at such places.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur : But how can the hon. Members open such schools by themselves ?

Minister for Education : By raising public subscription for this purpose.

A suggestion has been made with regard to raising the age of retirement to sixty years. This is not possible. I may point out for the information of the hon. Members that the managing committees of the privately managed schools are already empowered to grant this concession in special cases.

Some of the hon. Members have stated that the grants and scholarships being given to the displaced students are not adequate. In this connection, I wish to read out facts and figures. Under the amended scheme formulated by the Government of India, deserving displaced students in recognised schools were granted free studentships and cash grants to cover the cost of books at the rate of Rs. 5/- per student in the primary classes, Rs. 20/- per student in classes V and VI, Rs. 30/- per student in classes VII and VIII and Rs. 40/- per student in the high classes subject to the condition that the number of beneficiaries did not exceed fifty per cent of the total enrolment in Primary and Middle Classes and forty per cent in High Classes. The students living in Camps and Ashrams were granted cash grants on a cent per cent basis. Stipends to deserving displaced students were also granted in colleges and training institutions. They were sufficient to cover the cost of books, stationery and tuition fees etc.

The number of students who were benefited and the amount sanctioned during the year 1951—52 is as below :—

		No. Benefited	Amount Sanctioned		
			Rs.	a.	p.
Primary Classes	...	45583	2,69,326	15	9
Middle Classes	...	22112	10,53,788	14	6
High Classes	...	5845	4,90,048	1	0
Colleges	...	1274	2,32,835	7	0
Total	...	74814	20,45,999	6	3

[Minister for Education]

2641 stipends were awarded to Harijan students in the various schools and colleges in the State. The expenditure incurred in this connection amounts to Rs. 2,98,254/-.

As regards the question of compulsory Military Training, I wish to state that the policy of the Punjab Government will follow the policy laid down by the Government of India in this matter. When they direct us to introduce compulsory military training, we will certainly do so.

Shri Lajpat Rai has suggested that instead of having four classes in the primary department we should have at least six. I wish to state for his information that we are going to have five classes instead of four. I think this will be in keeping with the fundamental principles of primary education.

Professor Mota Singh : On a point of information, Sir. I want to have from the Education Minister through you, Sir, certain information and elucidation on certain educational matters which I placed before the House the other day. The hon. Minister has not touched any of them. I will repeat some of them.

Mr. Speaker : You cannot repeat those points. Please resume your seat.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 25,10,670/- on account of A-University be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 98,42,210/- on account of C-Primary be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 5,50,000/- on account of E-General-S-Amount transferred to the fund for the promotion of education amongst educationally backward classes be reduced by Re. 1/-.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said "I think the noes have it." This opinion was challenged and division was claimed. Mr. Speaker, after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places declared that the division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

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The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 200.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. Nil.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 25,10,670 on account of A-University be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 98,42,210 on account of C-Primary be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,67,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952—53 in respect of " Education ".

The motion was carried.

(The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Wednesday the 2nd July, 1952)

— — — —

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

2nd JULY, 1952.

Vol. II—No. 11.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 1952.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FORFEITURE OF PENSIONS AND PROPERTIES OF COMMUNIST WORKERS

*236. Shri Wadhawa Ram: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of those Communist workers whose pensions and properties have been forfeited and auctioned;
- (b) the steps Government proposes to take for the restoration of those pensions and properties?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

- (a) Number of Communist workers whose pensions have been forfeited 4.

Number of Communist workers whose properties have been forfeited and auctioned 7.

- (b) The properties attached are governed by sections 88 and 89 of the Cr. P. Code. The persons affected have a legal remedy. Restoration of Pensions is governed by Pension Rules and each case will be considered on its merits by the authorities concerned, if and when approached.

RESTORATION OF THE CONFISCATED PROPERTIES OF COMMUNISTS.

*237. Shri Wadhawa Ram: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the properties of Communists confiscated before 1947 have been returned to them?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Government are restoring the properties confiscated for participation in the national movement from and after the 1st Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1913. Restoration has so far been ordered in 7 cases given in the statement given below. These have been sanctioned irrespective of the political views of sufferers or party considerations.

— — — — —

Statement regarding the restoration of confiscated properties
to political sufferers.

No.	Name of the actual political sufferer.	District in which the land was situated.	Name of the persons in whose favour restoration has been made.
1.	2	3	4
1	Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh of Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Self
2	Sardar Bishan Singh ...	Amritsar	S. Bhagwant Singh and S. Achhar Singh sons of the late S. Bishan Singh village Dador, district Amritsar.
3	Sardar Hazara Singh of village Dador, district Amritsar.	Amritsar.	Self
4	Sardar Bishan Singh of village Dador, district tehsil Tarn Taran, Amritsar.	Amritsar	Self
5	Sardar Kesar Singh, village Thatagarh, district Amritsar.	Amritsar	Self
6	Sardar Wasakha Singh, of village Dador, district Amritsar.	Amritsar	Self
7	Baba Nand Singh.	Ludhiana	S. Karnail Singh s/o the late Baba Nand Singh of village Kaile, district Ludhiana.

N.B.—(1) A life pension of Rs. 36 per mensem has been sanctioned to Shrimati Jeo widow of the late S. Khushal Singh of village Padri, district Amritsar, for the patriotic activities of her deceased husband, who was transported for life in 1914-15 and whose property was confiscated in favour of Government.

(2) A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been granted to Shrimati Gurbachan Kaur (Mrs. Dalip Singh) daughter of the late S. Bakhshish Singh of the Amritsar District as compensation in lieu of the confiscation of the property of her father.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I know whether the confiscated property of Sardar Harnam Singh of a village in Kapurthala was restored to him ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

— — — — —

**BASIC PAY OF PEONS, PROCESS SERVERS, BAILIFFS, AND
SWEEPERS IN THE STATE.**

***270. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the basic pay with grade which is being paid by the Government to the peons, process servers, bailiffs and sweepers separately in the State ;
- (b) whether the process-servers and bailiffs are paid any travelling allowance when they go out on duty; if not, why not ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Name of post.	Grade of pay.
Peons	Rs. 20- $\frac{1}{2}$ -25
Process Servers	Rs. 25-1-30
Bailiffs	Rs. 30-1-35
Sweepers	This varies from district to district where the Deputy Commissioner fixes the pay according to local rates.

- (b) Process Servers and Bailiffs are not normally entitled to travelling allowance for journeys on tour within their sphere of duty except for journeys by rail, *Vide* item 3 of the list mentioned in note (I) to rule 2-38 of the Punjab Civil Services Rules, Volume III and contained in Appendix E thereof. Item No. 3 of the list, however, provides the following exception :—

A bailiff or process server may draw travelling allowance for a journey performed by him by motor, omnibus or other road vehicle either within or beyond his sphere of duty :—

[Chief Minister]

- (a) between places not connected by rail, or
- (b) between places connected by road as well as by rail when the road route is shorter or when the journey by rail, although shorter in distance would cause inordinate delay :

provided that the Judge of the Court issuing the process or the officer-in-charge of the Process Serving Agency certifies that this journey was necessary in the public interest and that no other form of travelling allowance has been drawn.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : May I know whether the Punjab Government proposes to give Dearness Allowance to the State employees at the rates sanctioned by the Government of India?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

PURCHASE OF 320 F. COTTON SEED IN THE STATE.

***271. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) the rate at which 320 F. Cotton Seed was purchased by the Government in different markets on different dates during the year 1951 in the State;
- (b) the prevailing market rate of American cotton seed at that time ;
- (c) the premium paid for the purchase of cotton seed together with the reasons therefor;
- (d) the price at which the seed is now being sold to the agriculturists ;
- (e) the extent of loss, if any, to the Government on this account together with the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has taken any steps to avoid any such loss in future; if so, the details thereof?

Sadar Partap Singh Kairon:

- (a) The quantities of 320 F. cotton seed purchased by Government in different markets on different dates during the year 1951-52, together with the rate of purchase, are given below:—

Market.	Date of purchase	Quantity purchased (Mds. Srs Chhs.)	Purchase rate per md.
1. Khanna.	23-10-51	6220—18—4	Rs. 17/-
2. Tarn Taran.	23-10-51	1124—11—8	Rs. 17/-
3. Malout	23-2-52	605 —27—8	Rs. 12/8/-

- (b) The prevailing market rate of American cotton seed on 23-10-1951 was Rs. 16/12/- per maund, while the rate on 26-2-1952 was Rs. 12/4 per maund.
- (c) The premium paid in each cotton seed transaction was annas four (Rs. -/4/-) per maund. It was necessary to pay the premium in order to get good quality seed.
- (d) In the earlier stages the sale rate of 320 cotton seed was fixed at Rs. 19/- per maund, but the rate had to be reduced consequently to Rs. 13/12/- per maund in unison with the drop in the price of all agricultural commodities. Afterwards, as the market conditions improved, the sale rate of cotton seed was raised to Rs. 16 per maund.
- (e) The extent of loss in seed transaction cannot be exactly assessed at the moment as all the seed stocked by the Department has not so far been disposed of. There is, however, bound to be some loss in the cotton seed transaction due to the general fall in the price of agricultural commodities, over which the Agricultural Department could have no control. It may be stated that half of the loss incurred in the cotton seed transaction is to be met by the Government of India out of the sanctioned budget of the Cotton Extension Scheme.
- (f) Every precaution is taken to sell off seed stocked by the Agricultural Department on a no profit no-loss basis except in such circumstances where wide fluctuations in the price of Agricultural commodities may occur. Even in the present cotton seed transaction, the rates of cotton seed were increased or decreased according to the market trends?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Is it a fact that there has been a loss to the Government in this transaction?

Minister: Yes. At first the rate was Rs. 17/- per maund and later on it fell down to Rs. 13/12/- . So obviously there is a loss.

Sardar Ajmer Singh: May I know the extent of this loss?

Minister: It will be possible to calculate it only after the whole of the cotton seed has been sold out.

SUB COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATURE BUILDINGS IN THE NEW CAPITAL.

***144- Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state : —

- (a) whether any Committee for the Assembly Chamber Buildings in the New Capital was appointed by the Government in 1948; if so, the date thereof;
- (b) the names of the original members and the changes in personnel subsequently, if any;
- (c) the number of meetings held by this Committee so far;
- (d) the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of its non-official members so far;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred by Government on the Committee so far;
- (f) whether any report has so far been submitted by this Committee to the Government; if so, the nature of the recommendations made, and the action taken by the Government on this report?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Yes. 15-11-48.

(b) Officials.

Non officials.

1. The hon. Speaker.

1. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.

2. The Secretary to Govt.

2. Sardar Dalip Singh Kang.

Punjab, Development Department.

3, The Secretary, Legislative
Assembly, Punjab.

No subsequent change was made in the member-ship of the Committee.

- (c) No meeting was held.
- (d) No travelling allowance was drawn by the non-official Members.
- (e) No expenditure was incurred.
- (f) No report has so far been received and as such the question of taking action does not arise. The Committee is no longer in existence.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know why the work has not been carried on in accordance with the earlier plans ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know why the Committee has not been summoned and consulted on the plans prepared by the Government ?

Mr. Speaker : It was to be summoned by the Speaker of the previous Assembly. Now since the plans have been formulated and sanctioned, the need for any Committee does not exist.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know as to who prepared that plan ?

Minister : It was prepared by planner, who has been imported from France for this purpose.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has the Government approved of that plan ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the Government take any action if no meeting of a committee constituted by it is convened ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

Captain Ranjit Singh : If the hon. Speaker convened no meeting of the Committee, is the Government prepared to get the plan approved by him now ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

INCREASE IN RENTS FOR SHOPS IN NANGAL TOWNSHIP.

***258. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is contemplating an increase in the rents for shops constructed in the new market placed in Nangal Township ; if so, by how much for various categories of shops ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these shops have been rented out to local displaced persons ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) The reply in the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The rent of the shops is being increased from Rs. 31/2/- to Rs. 40/- for one-room shop, and from Rs. 51/3/- to Rs. 60/- in the case of two-room shops
- (b) Only 25% of the shops have been reserved for the local displaced persons.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Has the Government increased the rents because the prices of commodities have fallen ?

Minister : Complete information has been given in my reply.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DISTRIBUTORY FROM BHANDAR RAJBABA JANDIALA DIVISION.

***264. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether on the request of the cultivators concerned, a proposal is under the consideration of the Government to construct a new distributory (*Rajbaha*) from Bhindar "*Rajbaha*" jandiala Division?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes. The scheme is under consideration. It will be taken up if the persons to be benefited are willing to contribute 62½ % of the estimated cost.

Shri Sher Singh : Why has this contribution been raised from 25 % to 62½ per cent ?

Minister : It has been done from this year because the Central Government has stopped the grant of 37½ per cent which it used to give for the "Grow More Food" work.

Shri Sher Singh: How many Zamindars have expressed their willingness to pay 62½ per cent of the estimated cost ?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Shri Rizaq Ram : Has the Government represented to the Government of India that they should reconsider their decision ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

**LAND OF VILLAGE DHULKOT ACQUIRED FOR BALDEV NAGAR
REFUGEE CAMP, AMBALA.**

***268. Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the lands of Village Dhulkot were acquired in the year 1947—48 for Baldev Nagar Refugee Camp, Ambala;
- (b) whether it is a fact that since 15-6-50, no rent (Chakota) for the lands acquired has been paid by the Government;
- (c) whether it is a fact that about twenty applications and reminders were sent from time to time during the period of two years that have passed since then by the landowners concerned to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, without any effective action on the part of the Government; if so, the reasons for this delay?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) The lands of village Dhulkot were occupied in the year 1947—48 for Baldev Nagar Refugee Camp.
- (b) It is a fact that since 15-6-50 no compensation of rent for the lands occupied has been paid to the owners.
- (c) The land of village Dhulkot was acquired by the Public Works Department in July, 1950 for the construction of mud huts for the displaced persons. Since then no lease money or cost of land has so far been paid to the owners by Government who have been considering the possibility of transferring the mud huts and the land under them permanently to their present inmates after renovating the huts. The scheme has been finalized and steps are being taken to acquire the land under

[Minister for Finance]

mud huts in the Punjab permanently. The lease money and the payment on account of acquisition of land will be made shortly to all the land owners concerned

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Is the Government aware that land revenue with respect to this land is still being realised ?

Minister : I am not aware of it.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Why was no payment made for full two years ?

Minister : The Government was taking steps to acquire the land permanently.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : What prevented the Government from making the payment uptil now ?

Minister : I have already replied to that. However the payment will be made shortly.

MUD HUTS IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE STATE.

***291 Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the life of the mud huts in the refugee camps in the State generally and those in the Bhargava Camp, Jullundur particularly was estimated to be 3 years ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to give the full proprietary rights to the occupants of the mud huts with or without charging the nominal price of the land ;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations from the refugees of the Bhargava Camp to the effect that after the lapse of 3 years full proprietary rights be granted to them ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) The life of the mud huts is five years and not three years. That period has not expired yet.
- (b) The matter is under Government's active consideration.

- (c) No written representation from the inmates of Bhargava Colony to the effect that after the lapse of 3 years, full proprietary rights should be granted to them, has been received in the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation. The inmates of the Bhargava Mud-huts Colony, however, made verbal representation to the Under Secretary (Urban) when he visited the Colony in April, 1952.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Did not the hon. Minister's predecessor say that the life of this camp was only three years.

Minister : I am not aware of that.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that when Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava visited the Bhargava Camp, he stated that the life of the Camp was three years ?

Minister : As I have already stated I am not aware of it.

Chief Minister : I shall request the hon. Members not to refer to the actions of the previous Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not the decision of the Government to hand over these mud huts to their occupants against property claims ?

Minister : No decision has been taken so far in this connection but the matter is under the active consideration of the Government.

REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT.

***293. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total annual expenditure of the Rehabilitation Department in the State since Partition ;
- (b) the number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted Officers working therein ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) Annual expenditure of the Rehabilitation Department for each year since the partition is as under :—

1947-48

Rs. 1,04,47,668

[Minister for Finance]

1948-49	Rs. 6,39,69,235
1949-50	Rs. 4,32,84,290
1950-51	Rs. 3,72,60,096
1951-52	Rs. 2,08,30,574

This expenditure includes a sum of Rs. 12,66,13,783 spent on the various loans and Housing Schemes etc. Besides this a sum of Rs. 11,06,50,433/- was spent during the years 1947 to 1952 on the relief side.

(b) This department is temporary and the strength of the Staff has varied from time to time. The present sanctioned strength of the staff in the Rehabilitation Department is as under :—

Gazatted.

Non Gazatted.

29

1,942.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Does the Minister think that there is sufficient work for the entire staff of the Rehabilitation Department ?

Minister: Yes, there is sufficient work for the staff that is working at present. When the volume of work decreases, the staff will be reduced proportionately.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Registrar and other members of the staff working in the Rehabilitation Department, Jullundur, themselves admit that there is not sufficient work for them and the staff can be decreased ?

Minister: The hon. Member's opinion is not correct. There is sufficient work for everybody employed in Rehabilitation Secretariat.

Shrimati Sita Devi: If definite facts are brought to the notice of the hon. Minister to show that some persons have absolutely no work.....

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of order, Sir. Is not an hon. Member entitled to seek complete information by means of supplementary question ?

Mr. Speaker: I don't think the hon. Lady Member will defy my ruling.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if I am entitled to ask a supplementary question ?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. But supplementary question does not mean that the hon. lady Member can ask such unnecessary questions as : whether the Sun will set this day or not. The ruling of the Chair regarding the admissibility of a question is indisputable. It is neither the Minister nor the Member who can question the admissibility of a question or a supplementary question.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No more points of order. The hon. lady Member may please resume her seat.

PANCHAYATS IN THE STATE.

***269. Sardar Ajmer Singh:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of cases, both Civil and Criminal, decided by the Panchayats in the State during the year 1951;
- (b) the number of cases in which revision applications were filed and the number out of those accepted, rejected or remanded back to the Panchayats or referred to Civil Courts for decision;
- (c) the number of cases in which transfer applications were filed and the number of those which were accepted;
- (d) the number of Panchayats that were formed during the year 1951 ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:

The required information for the calendar year 1951 is not available and it is not possible to collect it at a short notice. Information for the year 1950-51 is as under:—

(a)	27,688	(Criminal Cases.)	(Civil Cases.)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		15148	12540

- (b) The number of revision applications filed is not available. However, revision applications were decided in 189 criminal and 88 civil cases. Out of these revisions were accepted in 71 criminal and 32 civil cases, rejected in 89 criminal

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and 53 civil cases and retrial ordered in 8 criminal and 3 civil cases. In 21 criminal cases orders of the Panchayats were modified.

(c) The number of transfer applications actually filed is not available. 429 criminal and 210 civil suits were, however transferred from Panchayats by acceptance of these applications.

(d) 1154 Panchayats were formed during the year 1951, while those formed in the financial year 1950-51 was 1536.

Sardar Ajmer Singh: May I expect the information, which has not been supplied to me in the near future?

Minister: As I have already said in my reply the information for the calendar year 1951 is not available at present.

Sardar Ajmer Singh: I think the hon. Minister has not understood my question. I am not asking information for 1951. I want to know the exact number of cases in which transfer applications were filed during 1950-51.

Minister: I require a fresh notice to answer this question.

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed further with the next question, I shall read an extract for the information of the Lady Member who was rising on a point of Order:

an answer should be confined to the points contained in the question with such explanation only as renders the answer intelligible.

The supplementary question must be confined only to the points contained in the reply given by the Minister. Why should she be saying that every Member has a right to ask any supplementary question which he or she likes?

Chief Minister: With your permission, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Members to this fact that points of Order can only be raised when a matter is actually before the House and there is some point arising out of it.

Mr. Speaker: I agree with you.

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PATIENTS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN THE STATE.

***57. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at all the Government Hospitals upto date;
- (b) the total amount spent on medicines supplied to these patients?

Shri Jagat Narain:

- (a) A total number of 46,27,645 (both indoor and outdoor) patients was treated at all Government Hospitals in the Punjab State during the period from the 1st January, 1947 to the 31st December, 1951.
- (b) Approximately a sum of Rs. 19,52,620/- was spent on the purchase of medicines for the State Public Hospitals between the 15th August, 1947, to the end of December, 1951. Year-wise figures are given in a statement, given below.

I regret the information relating to the period from the 1st January, 1952, to the 30th May, 1952, is not readily available and is not being collected as the time and labour involved in doing so will not be commensurate with any possible benefit likely to accrue.

Statement Showing the total number of Indoor and Outdoor Patients treated at all the Government Hospitals in the Punjab and the total amount spent on medicines supplied to such patients up to the year 1951.

Year	Number of patients treated		Total.	Amount spent on medicines for the patients.
	Indoor	Outdoor		
* 1947	* 34, 666	* 6,17,199	* 6,51,865	Rs. 1,73,160/-
1948	42, 720	7,60,619	8,03,339	Rs. 3,34,830/-
1949	44,839	7,31,689	7,76,528	Rs. 3,13,930/-
1950	48,631	8,34,201	8,82,832	Rs. 4,51,190/-
1951	68,869	14,44,212	15,13,081	Rs. 6,79,510/-
Total	2,39,725	43,87,920	46,27,645	Rs. 19,52,620/-

* This information relates to the full Calendar year.

This information relates to the period 15—8—1947 to 31—12—1947.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE SELECTION OF TEXT BOOKS.

***58. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he has received any complaints regarding the selection of text books ; if so, the nature of these complaints and the steps, if any, taken by the Government to avoid such complaints in future ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

No complaints regarding the selection of text books have been received this year.

It was decided to adopt text books for III, VI (Except English) and VII (English only) classes this year for one year in the first instance. The publishers represented that this decision, if strictly enforced, would mean hardship to them. Their representation is being considered.

CLOSING OF DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

***59. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of District Board Schools closed in Gurdaspur District during the year 1951-52 ;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to absorb the teachers retrenched as a result of closing of these schools?

Shri Jagat Narain:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the District Board Schools which were functioning in Kalanaur and Dina Nagar have been closed down ?

Minister for Education : No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does't the Minister for Education regard those District Board Schools which are provincialized as closed ?

Minister : No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has any representation been received by the Government from the residents of Kalanaur and Dina Nagar with regard to the closure of those District Board Schools ?

Minister : I require notice for it.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN THE STATE.

***45. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of punitive police posts in the State district wise ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

Hissar	1
Rohtak	4
Gurgaon	1
Karnal	1 (sanctioned but not yet actually started functioning).
Ludhiana.	3
Ferozepore	6

RESIDENTIAL HOUSES OF MINISTERS AT SIMLA.

***145. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total value of the furniture placed in the residential houses of each of the Ministers at Simla on 1-4-51 and 1-6-52 separately ;
- (b) the monthly rent of the furniture of each of the Ministers' residential houses on the aforesaid dates ;
- (c) the monthly rent of each of the residential houses of Ministers at Simla on the aforesaid dates ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

(a) The total value of the furniture placed in the residential houses of each of the Ministers at Simla on 1-4-51 and 1-6-52 was as follows:—

	<u>1—4—51</u>	<u>1—6—52</u>
Brockhurst No. 1	Rs. 5835/—	Rs. 5835/—
Brockhurst No. 2	Rs. 8891/—	Rs. 8891/—
Brockhurst No. 3	(not occupied by a Minister).	Rs. 5941/—
Richmond	Rs. 6950/—	Not being used as Minister's residence)
Allen Bank	Rs. 14894/—	Rs. 14420/—
Victoria Place	Rs. 11294/—	Rs. 10854/—
Boundary	Rs. 10092/—	Rs. 10398/—
Charlie Villa	Rs. 13456/—	Not being used as Minister's residence)
New Victoria Cottage. (Not used as Minister's residence).		Rs. 7500/—

(b) The monthly rent of the furniture of each of the Ministers' residential houses on the aforesaid dates was as follows:—

	<u>1—4—51</u>	<u>1—6—52</u>
Brockhurst No. 1	Rs. 32/7/—	Rs. 32/7/—
Brockhurst No. 2	Rs. 62/10/—	Rs. 62/10/—
Brockhurst No. 3	Not used as Minister's residence)	Rs. 58/11/—
Richmond	Rs. 51/4/—	—(No longer being used as Minister's residence).
Allen Bank	Rs. 287/—	Rs. 274/—
Victoria Place	Rs. 148/—	Rs. 136/—
Boundary	Rs. 127/—	Rs. 130/—
Charlie Villa	Rs. 179/—	(Not being used as Minister's residence)
New Victoria Cottage	(Not used as Minister's residence)	Rs. 93/—

(c) The monthly rent of each of the residential houses of Ministers at Simla on the aforesaid dates was as follows:—

	<u>1—4—4—51</u>	<u>1—6—52</u>
Brokhurst No. 1	Rs. 277/1/—	Rs. 277/1/—
„ No. 2	Rs. 311/9/—	Rs. 311/9/—
„ No. 3	Not used as Minister's residence.	Rs. 295/14/—
Richmond	Rs. 320/5/—	(Not being used as Minister's residence)
Allen Bank,	Rs. 319/—	R. 319/—
Victoria Place	Rs. 142/—	Rs. 142/—
Boundary	Rs. 297/—	Rs. 297/—
Charlie Villa	Rs. 313/—	(No longer being used as Minister's residence)
Victoria Cottage	Not used as Minister's residence).	Rs. 156/—

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know whether the Government is prepared to consider the question of reducing the furniture, keeping in view the financial position of the State?

Chief Minister: I am sure the hon. Member knows the question he put to me. I have replied his question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Does it not arise, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wanted certain information which has been furnished to him. If on that basis he wants to get more information he can ask another supplementary question. He cannot request the Minister to do this thing or not to do that thing as that amounts to a suggestion for a particular action for which other courses are available to the hon. Member.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will you please allow me to submit, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : No, I have already given my ruling.

SPECIAL POLICE STAFF FOR THE RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN.

***146. Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the Special Police Staff for the recovery of abducted women, girls and children during the year 1951-52 district-wise in the State;
- (b) the number of abducted women, girls and children recovered during this period;
- (c) whether any Commendation Certificates or reward were given to any of the officers of the above staff; if so, their list, nature of reward granted and the meritorious services for which such rewards were granted?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

- (a) The recovery of abducted persons programme is a Central subject being administered by the External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India.
- (b) The figures, as supplied by the Search Service Bureau of the Ministry of External Affairs, are as follows:—

Below 12 years	12 yrs to 35 years	35 yrs to 50 years	50 yrs. and above	Total
666	1,243	61	26	1,996

No separate figures for Punjab are available, but most of the persons are of Punjab origin.

- (c) This subject is dealt with by the Ministry of External Affairs.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***147. Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of villages in Rohtak district where punitive police was stationed during the year 1951-52 together with the reasons therefor in each case ;

(b) whether any deputation interviewed the Governor on his visit to Rohtak during the year 1951, for the withdrawal of the above punitive police;

(c) the action, so far taken by the Government in the matter ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

(a) A statement is given below.

(b) No, the Governor never visited Rohtak during the year 1951.

(c) Does not arise.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT 1951—52.

Name of Additional (Punitive) Police Post.	Names of villages on which located.	Reasons for Location.
Khanpur Kalan	Khanpur Kalan, Inayat, Gamri, Kasandi and Kasanda.	Disturbed condition of the villages and conduct of their inhabitants
Asaudha	Asaudha and Ladrawan	—do—
Mobile Police on 62 villages with headquarters at Rohtak and Gohana.	Sunari Kalan, Dhamar, Bahu Akbarpur, Tatoli, Jindrain, Karoutha Khadwali Makrauli Khurd, Sanghi, Pairawar, Jasia, Kaloi, Dhob, Chamarjan, Makrauli Kalan, Bohar, Bhalout, Baliana, Kehrawar, Dataur, Kahanaur, Kalanga, Sudana, Lakhan Majra Nadana, Kharak Jatan, Farmana, Gehrawar, Nandal, Balmbha, Garauthi, Chiri, Indar Garh, Jasrana Jauli, Katwal, Ahmed Pur, Barota, Bhainswal Kalan, Bidha, Kheri Dhamkan, Garhwal, Bali Brahminan, Gillaur Kalan, Chhabhrana, Ahulana, Chhapra, Thaska, Baroda, Jagsi, Rukhi, Gangana, Kanwali, Kami, Bohla, Nana Tatal Pur, Pollad, Pinana, Jharoti, Jharot, Bhatgaon, Gona.	—do—
Kharkhoda	Kharkhoda and Rohna.	—do—

Shri Dev Raj : Is it not a fact that Chaudhri Sri Chand and Chaudhri Lahri Singh had met the Governor and requested him to withdraw the punitive police posts.

Chief Minister : I think the hon. Member has not listened attentively to my reply. The question is—"whether any deputation interviewed the Governor on his visit to Rohtak during the year 1951 for the withdrawal of the punitive police" and my answer to that question is "that the Governor never visited Rohtak during the year 1951".

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : From the statement it appears that the punitive police was stationed in two villages. May I know what complaints were received against the inhabitants of those villages which necessitated the Government taking such steps?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member wishes to have this information, he may take the trouble of giving a fresh notice.

**GRADES OF PAY OF SUPERINTENDENTS IN DISTRICT AND
SESSIONS JUDGES OFFICES AND JUNIOR CLERKS,
SENIOR CLERKS AND SUPERINTENDENTS
OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICES.**

* 274. **Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) the grades of pay of the Junior Clerks, Senior Clerks, Superintendents of Deputy Commissioner's offices and Superintendents of District and Sessions Judge's offices in the State;
- (b) whether the Government intends to increase the pays of all or any of them; if so, how much and when?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

Deputy Commissioners' offices

District and Sessions Judge's
offices.

(a) Junior Clerks Rs. 50-3-80/4-100

(a)

Superintendents 150-10-250

Senior Clerks ,, 60-4-80/5-120

Superintendents ,, 250-20-350

(b) Not at present.

(b) Not at present.

TRACTOR STATION, LADOWAL, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

* 267. **Sardar Chanan Singh** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:-

- (a) the extent of land in acres in which cultivation has been undertaken by the Tractor Station, Ladowal, District Ludhiana;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred on the Tractor Station under various heads, including pays and allowances of personnel and staff, purchase and servicing of tractors, etc. since the station was started;
- (c) the total income under various heads since the station was started;
- (d) the present amount of agricultural produce and the increase recorded due to intensive tractor cultivation;
- (e) the total number of tractors acquired for the tractor station from time to time and the number of those that are still in working order?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron:

(a) Year	Ploughing banjar land.	Ploughing cultivated land.	Disc- ing.	Soha- ga.	Culti- vator.	Sowing with seed.	Thra- shing
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
1948-49	2400.76	—	256.89	797.55	555.28	—	—
1949-50	859.25	1040.97	3795.77	4354.68	6254.91	875.25	23

(b) As no separate accounts were maintained at that time in

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respect of each farm or centre, it is not possible to give the total expenditure incurred on the tractor station, Ladowal, district Ludhiana.

- (c) The work was started at this station at the instance of the Rehabilitation Department. No direct cultivation was done by the Agriculture Department and after reclamation the land was allotted to refugees by the Rehabilitation Department. The Agriculture Department claimed only tractor cultivation charges which are as under :-

Year	Amount.
1948-49	Rs. 30,515/-
1949-50	Rs. 1,03,008/-

- (d) As the area after reclamation was allotted to refugees by the Rehabilitation Department and as the tractors were shifted to different places in the State, it is not possible to state the present amount of agricultural produce. Increase in yields due to intensive tractor cultivation could also not be recorded as this area, after reclamation, was allotted to refugees by the Rehabilitation Department.
- (e) To start with, 68 tractors were engaged in April, 1949. Out of these 68 tractors, 20 tractors were shifted to Karnal, in June, 1949. Movement of tractors continued till at last there were left only 13 tractors in April, 1950. These 13 tractors were shifted to Ludhiana, towards the close of Agricultural year 1949-50. As no specific tractors were detailed, for the work at Ladowal, it is difficult to indicate as to how many of these tractors are still in working order.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Has any profit accrued to the Government from this undertaking ?

Minister for Development : I am not in a position to say anything about it at present.

GARDEN COLONIES IN THE STATE.

***272. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total area reserved for the garden colonies in the State;
- (b) whether any garden has been planted so far in accordance with the scheme; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out the average cost of a garden till it starts giving a return as compared with the arable farming;
- (d) the basis on which the Government is encouraging fruit growing on a vast scale;
- (e) the steps so far taken by the Government to make planting of gardens profitable for the growers together with the details thereof?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon:

- (a) 22,016 acres.
- (b) Lay-out plans of individual allottees of 16 garden colonies have been prepared. Most of the approved plans prepared according to the scheme have been supplied to 14 garden colonies viz., Patti, Khankot, Boot-Kingra, Dalamwal, Jugiana, Jalalabad, Patti Bhattian Baluana, Khanpur, Kachrauli, Lahli, Panchli Gujran, Mirza-ki-Patti and Khajurke. Plans of the other 11 garden colonies excepting three (Kharkhauda, Morinda and Barara) the possessions of which have only been given recently, are being scrutinised and will be supplied to them shortly. Planting work has been started in four garden colonies Kachrauli, Boot-Kingra, Jalalabad and Dalamwal in accordance with the planting scheme.

Orchards could not be planted earlier due to the following reasons:—

- (i) Selection of allottees completed in 1949.
- (ii) Actual possessions to societies given in 1950.
- (iii) Consolidation and demarcation of 10 to 20 acre plots, colony roads and the other common utility places completed in 1951.
- (iv) Delay in the grant of the concession of enhanced supply of canal water to the canal irrigated colonies and in the construction of tube-wells in the other garden colonies.
- (v) Lean financial position of the allottees.

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- (vi) Delay in electrification of garden colonies.
- (vii) Provision of inadequate staff and the termination of their services every year thereby disturbing the whole programme of work.
- (c) It is an established fact that the orchards are much more paying than arable farming.
- (d) Fruit growing is being encouraged:—
 - (i) to make the State self-sufficient in its requirements of fresh fruits and preserves as the fruit industry of the State received great set back due to partition;
 - (ii) to secure more income per unit area thus raising the status of peasantry and fruit growers.
- (e) The following facilities have been afforded to the fruit growers:—
 - (i) supply of reliable nursery plants of outstanding merit at reasonable rates;
 - (ii) free technical advice on horticultural matters;
 - (iii) concession of enhanced supply of canal water.

WATERLOGGING IN DISTRICT FEROZEPUR.

***313. Sardar Bachan Singh:** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the steps so far taken by the Government to remedy the state of affairs in villages badly affected by waterlogging in the district of Ferozepore?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh:

Ludhiana Drainage Division with Moga & Fazilka Sub Divisions was opened during 1951-52 for the construction of various drains, as a measure to guard against water logging in the Ludhiana and Ferozepore Districts but the same had to be closed down later on for want of funds.

The work on Salim Shah and Tarkhanwali Drains was started during 1951-52 and will be completed during the current year.

Proposals for setting up the Division to tackle the problem of water-logging are under consideration.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state the meaning of the expression 'want of funds'? I think that funds are always sanctioned before any work is taken in hand.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHANDIGARH.

***206. Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the rates per marla which the Government has paid for taking over land of various categories at Chandigarh ;
- (b) any further charges, including acquisition and development charges, incurred by the Government per marla of land ;
- (c) the price being charged by the Government per marla of land from purchasers of plots of various categories ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) The average cost per marla of land acquired at Chandigarh is Rs. 6/4/-.

The land falls into various categories viz. *Barani Banjar, Ghair Mumkin* and *Abadi* etc. As the prices of different categories of land vary from village to village it is not possible to give the price per marla of each category of land.

- (b) The total average cost per marla of land which will be incurred by the Government on account of acquisition and development is Rs. 104/8/-.
- (c) (a) *Residential.*

Prices of plots have been calculated as follows :—

First 5 marlas @ Rs 300/- per marla.

Next 5 marlas @ Rs. 200/- per marla.

Next 10 marlas @ Rs. 100/- per marla.

[Minister for Public Works]

and thereafter for every additional marla at Rs. 100/- per marla.

(b) *Industrial*. Will be sold by open auction on the basis of reserve price viz. Rs. 56/4/- per marla upto 10 kanals, thereafter Rs. 50/- per marla.

(c) *Commercial and Business*. Will be sold by open auction on the basis of reserve price which has not yet been fixed.

ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES IN THE STATE.

*273. **Sardar Ajmer Singh** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of electric connections district-wise given by the Government for agricultural purposes throughout the State during the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and since then upto date;

(b) whether the agriculturists of Tehsil Samrala have been given such connections ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) The total number of electric connections districtwise given by the Government for agricultural purposes throughout the State as it stood on 31-3-51 and for the financial year 1951-52 is given as under :—

Sr. No.	Name of the District.	Connections given upto 31-3-51.	Connections given during 1951-52.	Total No. of connections upto 31-3-52.
1	Amritsar.	73	29	102
2.	Karnal.	14	43	57
3.	Gurgaon.	9	4	13
4.	Ludhiana.	22	23	45
5.	Ferozepur.	74	32	106
6.	Jullundur.	42	149	191
7.	Gurdaspur.	45	24	69
8.	Kangra.	—	—	—
9.	Ambala.	2	10	12
Total.		281	314	595

- (b) No agricultural connection has been given in Samrala Tahsil. The distribution system at Samrala is, however, ready but due to Ludhiana Substation being already overloaded, its electrification as well the tube well connection on it have been held in abeyance pending augmentation of the Grid Substation at Ludhiana.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state when such connections will be completed in Ambala District ?

Minister : Government is not in a position to give this information at this stage.

**EMPLOYEES OF ELECTRICITY, BUILDINGS AND ROADS AND
PUBLIC HEALTH SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.**

***294. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state : -

- (a) whether the employees in the Electricity, Buildings and Roads and Public Health Sections of the P.W.D., are considered public servants;
- (b) whether the Service Rules are applicable to them;
- (c) in how many years do they attain permanence;
- (d) whether they are granted any Provident Fund; if so, at what rate;
- (e) the sick leave, privilege leave or other leave to which they are entitled in a year;
- (f) how many hours a day they are expected to be on duty and how much rest do they get every day;
- (g) whether they are given any uniforms by the Government;
- (h) the arrangements for their medical aid, in case of accident or emergency;
- (i) the basic pay of of a sweeper in the Public Health Section?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa:

- (a) Yes.

[Minister for Public Works]

(b) Yes.

- (c) In the case of new appointments, the period of probation is two years while it is one year in the case of promotions from one class to the other. Employees are normally considered for confirmation after the expiry of the above periods as may be applicable to them. Confirmations are, however, ordered subject to the existence of permanent posts.
- (d) The employees have recently been allowed the benefit of Revised Pension Rules framed by the Punjab Government. The applicability of the Punjab Contributory Provident Fund has been withdrawn from them. They are at liberty however to subscribe to the General Provident Fund.
- (e) To employees who were in service on 31st December, 1930, the old Leave Rules are applicable. These are contained in Para 8-73 of the C. S.R. Punjab, Volume, I Part I.

To employees who were recruited on or after 1st January 1931, the Revised Leave Rules are applicable. These Rules are contained in Paras 8-116 and 8-120 of the C.S.R. Punjab, Volume I, Part I, as amended from time to time.

As regards the temporary Government Servants, their leave is regulated by Rule 8-133 of the C. S. R. Punjab, Volume I, Part I, as amended from time to time.

In addition to the above average earned leave, every Government Servant in regular employee is allowed 20 days casual leave during a year.

- (f) So far as the clerical staff is concerned they are required to work for seven hours each day with an interval of half an hour for rest and recreation, on normal days. On Saturdays, they are required to work only for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours i. e. 36 hours a week.

As regards the Technical Staff, they have to work for the same number of hours as the clerical staff except the staff employed in Sub-stations and power houses where the shift duty is for eight hours each day with a day off each week i.e. 48 hours a week.

(g) No uniform is given at present to the technical or the clerical employees of the Branch. The question of grant of uniform so far as the staff which has to visit the consumers premises is under the consideration of Government. The peons and the Chowkidars etc. are of course given liveries according to the Government Rules.

(h) All employees of the Branch are entitled to free medical aid and treatment according to Government Rules on the subject. This concession is also admissible to their families. In case of accidents to technical staff, they are allowed compensation in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act in addition to free medical aid and treatment.

(i) Not applicable to the Electricity Branch.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Sir, I have just received a copy of the reply, and as the question is of the utmost importance, I request that supplementaries to this question may be postponed.

Mr. Speaker: Yes the hon. Lady Member can ask the Supplementaries tomorrow.

SCALES OF PAY OF ASSISTANT DRIVERS.

***295. Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the reasons why the new grades of pay sanctioned since 1st August, 1951 have not been actually given effect to;
- (b) whether the Assistant Drivers are sanctioned the same scales of pay as is sanctioned for the drivers?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa:

- (a) No new grade of pay for Assistant Drivers has been sanctioned by the Government.
- (b) No.

Shrimati Sita Devi: The hon. Minister has said that no new grade has been sanctioned. Is it within his knowledge that the Chief Engineer had informed these Drivers that their old grade had been revised?

Minister: No new grade has been sanctioned. The question of revision does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Then I think that the hon. Minister has no knowledge of the facts, since he has recently assumed office.

Mr Speaker: It is not fair or in order to make such a remark about an hon. Minister.

PROVISION OF PROTECTIVE SIDE RAILINGS ON CANAL BRIDGES.

* 312 **Sardar Bachan Singh:** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that canal bridges are not being provided with protective side railings in the State at present;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on 19th April, 1952 a bullock cart while crossing the bridge Ghalia Khurd tumbled down into the canal resulting in the death of one bullock for want of these railings on the bridge;
- (c) whether suitable steps will be taken by the Government to prevent such accidents in future ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

- (a) All canal bridges are duly provided with either railings or parapets.
- (b) It is not a fact that the bullock cart while crossing the bridge tumbled down into the canal for want of railings on the bridge, but in fact, the accident happened at a distance down stream of the bridge, due to the fault of cartman, when the bullocks went straight to the Branch to drink water and slipped in.
- (c) Does not arise.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What does the Government intend to do, if a bullock of some farmers while crossing a bridge falls into the canal and dies for want of side railings ?

Minister : I would ask the hon. Member first to read carefully the reply given to his question and then put a supplementary ?

WIDOW HOMES IN THE STATE.

* 296. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of Widow Homes in the State at present ;
- (b) the number of inmates of each Home ;
- (c) the annual expenses of each Home ;
- (d) the expenditure on establishment of each Home and percentage of expenditure which is directly incurred on the inmates ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) The number of Women Homes in the State is five.
- (b) The number of inmates of each Home is as follows:-

(i) Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur.	1,456
(ii) Sewa Sadan, Jullundur.	197
(iii) Mahila Ashram, Hoshiarpur.	1,418
(iv) Mahila Ashram, Karnal.	1,295
(v) Mahila Ashram, Rohtak.	1,403
- (c) The annual expenses of each Home are:-

(i) Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur.	Rs. 4,36,000
(ii) Sewa Sadan, Jullundur.	,, 58,000
(iii) Mahila Ashram, Hoshiarpur.	,, 4,25,000
(iv) Mahila Ashram, Karnal.	,, 3,88,000
(v) Mahila Ashram, Rohtak.	,, 4,20,000

[Minister for Finance]

(d) The annual expenditure on the establishment of each Home is approximately :-

(i) Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur	Rs. 26,000
(ii) Sewa Sadan, Jullundur	„ 4,000
(iii) Mahila Ashram, Hoshiarpur	„ 26,000
(iv) Mahila Ashram, Karnal.	„ 24,000
(v) Mahila Ashram, Rohtak.	„ 26,000

94% of the total expenditure is incurred directly on the inmates.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister kindly state the percentage of total expenditure spent on widows expenses and the establishment of the camps separately ?

Minister : I have already stated that 94 % of the total expenditure is directly incurred on the widows and the rest on the establishment of the camps.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the Government intend to make some arrangement for the permanent settlement of widows living in these camps ?

Minister : That is being done.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What percentage of the total number of Widows of these camps has so far been rehabilitated by the Government?

Minister : They are being given training in different crafts.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know whether admission to these camps is open even now to the destitute Widows or not ?

Minister : It is open in all the camps with the exception of the camp at Hoshiarpur.

EMBEZZLEMENT CASE OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT, HASSANPUR.

*298. **Shri Dharm Vir Vasisht:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an embezzlement of over Rs. 800/- was discovered by the auditor at the time of inspection in the accounts of Village Panchayat, Hassanpur, District Gurgaon;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that the matter was also reported by the present Panchayat of the said village to the Government;
- (c) if so, the action, if any taken by the Government in the matter?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Shri Amin Lal, ex-Sarpanch and now a panch, has been removed from membership of the village Panchayat. Directions have also been issued to report against him to the Police for being proceeded against, for the embezzlement in question according to law.

**COMPLAINTS FROM DISTRICT BOARD TEACHERS' UNION
RE: IRREGULAR PAYMENT OF TEACHERS' SALARIES.**

*60. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he has received any complaints from District Board Teachers' Union regarding the irregular payment of the salaries of the teachers in the State; if so, the action if any taken thereon?

Shri Jagat Narain:

Complaints of irregular payment of salaries to District Board Teachers were received from the following Districts:—

Jullundur,

Hoshiarpur,

Kangra,

Rohtak.

These complaints were received by the Secretary, Local Self Government as also by the Education Secretary.

Action taken.

Delay in payment is largely due to the poor finances of the District Boards which have very little Reserve Fund and which have been adding to their liabilities as they have assumed responsibility for maintaining

[Minister for Education]

increasingly larger number of schools. To help the District Boards in the regular disbursement of the Teachers' salaries the Government grant from the last year is being given in three instalments instead of two. These instalments are issued in April-May, August and December.

Action proposed.

To ensure regular payments a proposal to give a permanent advance to District Inspectors of Schools equal to one month's salary of the District Board Teachers is receiving the consideration of Government. The Government is further considering the creation of a District Educational Fund which will have the following sources of income:—

- (i) Grants from Government,
- (ii) Fees and Fines,
- (i.i) Income from the share of the revenue of the Local Bodies.
- (iv) Public donation, if any.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

*61. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount of money spent by the Government on the purchase of Vehicles used for the Public Transport Services in the State;
- (b) the annual income to the Government from the Transport Services run by the Government?

Shri Jagat Narain:

(a) Total amount spent on vehicles upto 31st March, 1952.	...	...	Rs. 30,01,129.
(b) Annual income (Not Profit) derived	1948-49		Rs. 1,15,966
	1949-50		Rs. 1,64,069
	1950-51		Rs. 5,72,036
	1951-52		Rs. 8,03,890

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether or not the figures of income given by him, include certain taxes, which other private transport companies have to pay ?

Minister : The Government is not paying any Income Tax, etc. Therefore these figures include the amounts which would have been paid as taxes, if this had been a private enterprise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What percentage of the total costs is the Government taking into account as depreciation ? I understand the private companies are allowed upto 50% of the total costs on this account ?

Minister : The Government is taking into account 25% of the cost towards depreciation of machinery.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**HOSPITALS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF POLICE STATION,
KHUIAN SARVAR.**

96. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of Government Hospitals in the villages under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar ;
- (b) the yearly expenditure on all these Hospitals ;
- (c) the amount of money which is spent by the Government on sanitation per capita of the population of the villages ;
- (d) the distance from the villages Sherewala and Gumjal under the jurisdiction of the said Police Station to the nearest Government Hospital ;
- (e) the number of new hospitals opened in the area under the jurisdiction of this Police Station in the last four years and the number of such hospitals that are expected to be opened during the next year ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) None. There are, however, 2 District Board rural dispensaries.
- (b) Rs. 12,789 on the two rural dispensaries during the year 1951.

[Minister for Education]

- (c) Cost per capita on sanitating of a well in village Nihal Khera, Police Station, Khuian Sarvar = 0.4 pies. Other sanitary services are provided by the local body and no figures of expenditure from this source on sanitation are yet available.
- (d) Gumjal is 12 miles and Sherewala 11 miles from the nearest rural dispensary, Panjkosi.
- (e) No new rural dispensary was opened during the last 4 years. One is proposed to be opened at village Waryam Khera.

**VETERINARY HOSPITAL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF POLICE
STATION, KHUIAN SARVAR.**

97. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of Veterinary Hospitals in the area under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar and which of these hospitals is at the shortest distance from village Gumjal and the actual distance thereof ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron : In the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar, Tehsil Fazilka, District Ferozepur, there is no Veterinary Hospital. The nearest Veterinary Hospital from village Gumjal is at Abbor which is about 16 miles from that village.

MALUKPUR BRANCH OF SIRHIND CANAL.

98. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of days from 1st April, 1951 to 31st March, 1952 during which the Mulkpur branch of Sirhind Canal remained flowing and the number of days during which water from the tail of this branch continued to flow in the Mogas of village Ganyal ;
- (b) the number of temporary Mogas allowed in the Abohar branch of Sirhind Canal during last year (from 1st April, 1951 to 31st March, 1952) and the number of those proposed during the period from 1st May, 1952 to 31st March, 1953 ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : Reply to this question is not yet ready, it will be supplied to the hon. Member in due course.

**VILLAGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF POLICE STATION,
KHUIAN SARVAR.**

99. **Shri Teg Ram:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of villages in the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar;
- (b) the number of Panches in the Panchayats of these villages together with the number of Harijans and cultivators not holding land among them ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:

- (a) 57.
- (b) Number of Panches is 164 out of whom 14 are Harijans.

It is regretted that information is not readily available about the non-land-holding cultivators.

ISSUING OF LICENCES OF ARMS IN THE STATE.

100. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the grounds and considerations which are kept in view while issuing licences of arms to the public in the State ;
- (b) the number of people under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar who have got licence of arms at present and the number among them of Harijans and cultivators who are holding no land ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Licences for firearms are granted by District Magistrates to suitable persons according to statutory rule 31 of the Indian, Arms Rules, 1951.
- (b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the information asked for.

**RIOTS AND QUARRELS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF POLICE
STATION KHUIAN SARVAR.**

101. Shri Teg Ram : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of riots and quarrels in connection with the possession of lands belonging to zamindars and cultivators and watering of fields which have occurred in the area under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Khuian Sarvar during May, 1952 ;
- (b) whether he will supply the following information about each case:
 - (i) on what date the rioting occurred ;
 - (ii) the date on which a medical certificate was given by the doctor after examination and the section of the penal code which was mentioned in the certificate of injuries ;
 - (iii) the date on which the complaint was registered at the police station in each case ;
 - (iv) the date on which the accused were arrested ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Four (2 in connection with possession of lands and 2 in connection with watering of fields).
 - (b) A statement is given below.
-

Sr. No.	Details, of FIR.	Date of Rioting.	Date of issue of Medical Certificate.	Section of Penal code mentioned in the certificates.	Date when complaint was registered.	Date on which accused were arrested.
1	FIR No. 54 dated 10-5-52, u/s 307/325/IPC.	9-5-52	10-5-52	325/324 IPC	10-5-52	Case sent up untraced.
2	FIR No. 85 dated 6-6-52, u/s 325 IPC.	28-5-52	28-5-52	325/IPC	*6-6-52	21-6-52
3	FIR No. 69 dated 29-5-52 u/s 307/147/324/148 IPC.	29-5-52	29-5-52	324 IPC	29-5-52	17-6-52
4	FIR No. 70 dated 30-5-52 u/s 324/307 IPC.	29-5-52	29-5-52	324 IPC	30-5-52	17-6-52

*Case was registered on receipt of Medical report by post.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.
Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over. We now proceed to the next item on the Agenda. I call upon the Minister for Development to move his motion.

Minister for Development: Sir, I beg to move:

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,13,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952—53 in respect of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker. Motion moved:

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,13,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952—53 in respect of Agriculture.

I have received notices of the following cut motions in respect of this Demand. As usual, they will be deemed to have been moved. So the main motion can be discussed along with the cut motions. I invite Chaudhri Shri Chand to initiate the discussion.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma: | That the item of Rs. 36,740/- on account of A—1 Direction — Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs 100/. |
| 2. Sardar Chanan Singh: | That the item of Rs. 75,000/- on account of E—2 (ii) Destruction of jackals and fieldrats be reduced by Re. nil. |
| 3. Shri Dev Raj Sethi: | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-. |
| 4. Sardar Shib Singh: | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-. |
| 5. Shri Rala Ram: | That the Demand be reduced by Re 1/- |
| 6. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-. |
| 7. Shri Samar Singh: | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-. |
| 8. Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta: | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-. |
| 9. Shri Chandi Ram Verma: | That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/- |

10. Shri Maru Singh Malik: That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100/-.
11. Rai Hari Chand : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
12. Sardar Achhar Singh:
13. Sardar Chanan Singh: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
14. Shri Wadhawa Ram:
15. Principal Harbhajan Singh: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
16. Shri Ram Kishan: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
17. Shri Badlu Ram: That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100/-.
18. Shri Ram Kumar Bidhat: That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
19. Captain Ranjit Singh: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
20. Shri Dharam Vir Visisht: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
- 21 Shri Babu Dayal: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 10/-.
22. Shri Balwant Rai Tayal: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
23. Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
24. Shri Lajpat Rai: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
25. Shri Jagat Ram: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
26. Shri Gajraj Singh Rao: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 21/-.
27. Shrimati Parkash Kaur: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
8. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma: That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

29. Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
30. Shri Sher Singh : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
31. Shri Jagdish Chandra : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 151/-
32. Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
33. Shri Abhal Singh : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-
34. Shri Bhagat Ram Sharma : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
35. Rai Raghuvir Singh : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
36. Sri Lal Chand Prarthi : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-
37. Shrimati Shanno Devi : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
38. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Attwal : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-
39. Shri Khushi Ram Gupta : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
40. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
41. Sardar Ajmer Singh :
42. Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-
43. Sardar Shamsher Singh :
44. Sardar Iqbal Singh :
45. Shri Mool Chand Jain : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
46. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
47. Shri Gopi Chand : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
48. Shri Gopi Chand : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
49. Shri Teg Ram : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
50. Shri Gurdatt Singh : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
51. Shri Mehar Singh : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-
52. Shri Dev Raj Anand : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (Hindi) : Sir, I wish to point out to hon. Members at the very beginning of my speech that I am not a big Zamindar. I am an owner of only forty or fifty *Bighas* of land and should not be misunderstood. As a matter of fact I would be the last person to bring about a conflict between the urbanites and the ruralites. What is more I am strongly of the view that the ruralites cannot thrive unless the urbanites are prosperous and *vice versa*. Still I may have to say certain things with a view to hold the balance between these two sections of the people and these may very kindly be seen in their proper perspective.

Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that the Punjab mainly depends upon agriculture for its income, the other two sources of income being cattle-breeding and services. About 58 lakhs of rupees have been earmarked for Agriculture this year. I think it is not a very big sum particularly when we keep in view the manner in which money has been spent in the past on agricultural purposes. Even in the budgeted amount before us, nearly 90% of this sum is to be spent by way of salaries of officials of the Agriculture Department. This Department has till now brought about no improvement in the agricultural produce of the State, and thank God the tiller or the cultivator has not emulated its example! Had he done so, not only he himself but the whole State would have gone bankrupt. I have yet to see a Government Farm which has been cultivated by the Agriculture Department and has shown profit. All Government Farms have been showing losses. It may not be out of place to give a concrete example here and I would quote the case of the Government Farm at Rohtak. As the Agriculture Department could not cultivate it without showing losses it had to be given away to the tenants. And all this is so because the graduates who are turned out from the Agriculture College are not in a position to render any useful service. The College only manufactures well dressed "babus"; it imparts no practical training.

Now I would like to place before this august House some facts and figures about the land and the people of our State and suggest as to how the Agriculture Department can help us. The population of our State is 1,26,41,205. Out of this rural population is 1,02,40,273 and the urban only 24 lakhs. This means that about one crore and two lakhs of people in this State live on Agriculture as there are no other means of livelihood in the rural areas. I may here give the details of these figures which are as follows: To be exact 80,68,597 persons have no other means of livelihood than Agriculture and out of this number 48,22,176 persons till land with their own hands.

Minister for Development: From where has the hon. Member got these figures?

Shri Sri Chand: These are not my figures. These are the figures supplied by the Government itself. I assure the Minister that I will not quote a wrong figure. The agricultural labourers number 9,65,777 and the rural artisans 9,05,739. What I want to drive at is that with the exception of a few lakhs of people who earn their living by trade and transport, the vast majority of the rural population lives mainly on Agriculture.

After giving the figures of population, I come to land. We have in all 1,64,14,300 acres of land in the State out of which 69,31,596 acres are canal or well irrigated. About 80 lakhs of acres are to be irrigated by the schemes which have to be put through.

[Shri Sri Chand]

In this way, we find that the total area of cultivable land in our State is 1,38,37,746 acres. This means that the area per head comes to about 1·7 acres. Along with this, I want to tell the House as to what is the total number of proprietors of land in our State. Their total strength is 25,73,300 out of which 14,18,221 proprietors own 5 acres or even less each. In fact 5,86,000 own 5 to 10 acres each. 3,07,000 own 10 to 20 acres each. 1,38,000 own 20 to 30 acres each. 78,000 own 30 to 50 acres each. 34,000 own 50 to 75 acres each. 14,000 own 75 to 100 acres each. 6,000 own 100 to 150 acres each and 2,000 own 150 to 200 acres each. Only 1,200 own 200 to 250 acres each. In the whole of the Punjab, there are only 2,000 owners of land who have got more than 250 acres each.

My object in giving these figures is to show as to how far the present agitation regarding the enactment of Tenancy Legislation in our State, is justified. We have to see as to how many big zamindars there are in our State. I have no sympathy with big zamindars and if they have got very big holdings the Government can take them over. But what do these figures show? They show that about one crore of land-owners in our State own less than 30 acres each. In other words this is the number of families each of which owns not more than 30 acres of land. And as regards per head holding of land, I have already stated that it comes to only 1·7 acres. Under these circumstances, it is sheer propaganda to say that the tenants are being victimised by the landlords. As a matter of fact keeping in view the agricultural conditions that obtain in our State, I can say that the tenancy problem does not exist here.

Minister for Development : Why worry then?

Shri Sri Chand : Well, Sir, according to the report of the Planning Commission, the income of every family should be raised to 1,000 rupees per mensem. Even according to the estimate given by our own Chief Minister, it is not possible for a person to pull on with less than 1,265 rupees per mensem. Then the Government imposes no income-tax on a person whose income is less than Rs. 300 per mensem. This means that no tax is imposed on the person whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 3,600 per annum. Under these circumstance, I request the hon. Minister to let the poor cultivators have 300 rupees tax free per mensem which sum is allowed to other people and the Government can take away whatever additional income is left with the cultivator.

Time and again, it is repeated here by Members on the Government side that they do not make any distinction between an urbanite and a ruralite. If that is really the case, I see no reason why rural people should not be allowed the tax free income of Rs. 300 per mensem which is allowed by the Government to the urban people. To-day, we know that the yield per acre of cotton, wheat or any other crop in our State does not exceed ten rupees. As against this, we read in the news-papers that the bulk of gold in our country has found its way into the villages. What is the reason for this phenomenon? The reason is this that whereas every member of a cultivator's family, from a child of 5 years to an old-man of 80 years, works in the fields, their standard of living is very poor. They eat no fruit; they take no coffee and they refrain from indulging in beverages. On the other hand, they work hard in the fields with empty stomachs and lead a very austere life.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member will be allowed ten minutes more. *(Interruptions).*

Shri Sri Chand : I may tell my friends over there that the yield per acre comes to only ten rupees despite the hard labour put in by the cultivator. If the income per acre is just ten rupees, it means that 360 acres will be required to have an annual income of Rs. 3,600. In other words, the Government should exempt the cultivator owning 360 acres of land from any tax.

Then, Sir, it has been asked as to why the zamindars do not give up this work if it is so unprofitable. The answer is that they cannot do anything else. In spite of these facts, it is being pressed that the ceiling on agricultural holdings should be fixed at 30 acres or 50 acres. I see no reason why a person living in the cities should be allowed to own property worth even a crore of rupees while a person living in the villages be debarred from owning more than 30 or 50 acres?

Even according to the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution, everybody is free to own as much property as he likes. It is, therefore, strange that the Government should fix a ceiling in the case of agricultural holdings and place no restrictions on the amount of urban property which a man can own.

There is one thing more to which I want to draw the attention of the House and that is this. The Government is on the one hand giving allotment orders to the refugees and on the other, it is asking the tenants

[Shri Sri Chand]

not to leave that land. In my district 8,000 acres of land has been allotted to the refugees; but along with this the tenants are told not to vacate that land. Similar is the case with regard to garden colonies. The land has been allotted to the refugee land-owners for this purpose, but the tenants are asked not to give up possession of the land. As a matter of fact when we hear the beautiful speeches of the hon. Minister, we admire him. But when we look at his deeds, we do not like him. I wonder how his tongue which is so sweet otherwise, uttered bitter words the other day about the cultivators saying that they were worms and a disease. I fail to understand as to how the disease would end after 102 lakhs of cultivators have been destroyed and killed. Does he not know these people pay Abiana, Land Revenue, Chowkidara, Sales Tax, Local Rates and many other taxes to the Government? It is these people who contribute 17 crores of rupees out of the total revenue receipts of rupees 18 crores. In spite of this fact, my hon. Friend has the audacity to dub these cultivators a disease which he wants to combat by giving injections. I would like to point out that the zamindars did not get these lands by making a request to anybody or by turning traitors to the country as was done in Uttar Pradesh; on the other hand, they got these after hard struggles. If, therefore, an effort is made to deprive these people of their land, God knows what may happen here!

I think in this way the Government is preparing ground for the Communists to create another Talingana in the Punjab. It is no exaggeration to say that the present policy of the Government is bound to result in the creation of such conditions at no distant date. When the poor zamindars approach me and relate their tales of woe and miseries, I frankly tell them to become tenants instead of remaining petty zamindars because in that case they will have no fear of ejections.

Sir, I wish to enquire from the Minister whether he remembers his speech dated the 23rd March, 1950, in which he advocated the abolition of the Betterment Fee? Has his advocacy gone for nothing? It is a matter of deep regret that the Chief Minister kept silent when asked about the fate of the promises held out to the farmers and tillers regarding the reduction in 'abiana'. Sir, I am surprised to know that the Government readily paid a huge sum of money to twelve families on the plea that it had to fulfil a promise, but it is a pity that the promises in respect of 'abiana' have so far remained unfulfilled.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the hon. Member to wind up within three or four minutes. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, what I want to drive at is that the problem of tenants in the Punjab, does not exist at all. Both the landlords and the tenants are on one and the same level. But, by raising this issue, the Government seems to be bent upon ruining the zamindars. Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out and would rather like to sound a note of warning to the Government that this step-motherly treatment with the landlords would not carry it far. It will have to change its present line of action, otherwise it might lead to the spread of lawlessness in the State. Sir, it is an established practice that public opinion is elicited by the Government before bringing any law on the Statute Book. But I am constrained to remark that so far as the question of 'abiana' is concerned, this practice was altogether ignored and the affected people were not consulted.

Then I would like to refer to the matter of allotments and distribution of *Shamlats*. The '*Shamlats*' have been distributed only amongst '*Mahajans*', '*Shahukars*'.....

Minister for Public Works : And also Harijans.

Shri Sri Chand : Yes, the Harijans have simply been given 'chits' which are nothing more than scraps of paper. Even in the Ministry of this State the Harijan Minister is simply a paper Minister. (कागजी मनिस्टर).

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should know that he cannot cast aspersions on any Member or Minister.

Shri Sri Chand : I have said nothing which may tantamount to reflection on anybody.

Mr. Speaker : Is the expression " कागजी मनिस्टर " not a reflection on the hon. Minister? He will, therefore, have to withdraw these words.

Shri Sri Chand : Alright Sir, I withdraw these words, but at the same time wish to submit that a discriminatory treatment has been meted out both to the poor and the Harijans in the matter of allotments of land.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is over. I call upon Principal Harbhajan Singh to speak.

Principal Harbhajan Singh (Garhshankar) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Minister for Development for the importance that he has been pleased to give to the question of Consolidation of Holdings. I feel that this is a step in the right direction. No doubt, the scheme was launched long before the present Ministry assumed office, but the speed with which the scheme is being pushed now would certainly result in the betterment of the State as a whole. Sir, with the exception of certain Patwaris, the endeavours and the zeal with which the officers concerned are carrying on the work of consolidation are, indeed, commendable. Their devotion to duty and strenuous efforts to achieve the cherished object, have received approbation even from the masses at large. Almost all the Agricultural Assistants engaged in this task are fully alive to their duties. But despite all these qualities, I feel that they should be imbued with a missionary spirit in doing this work.

There is no denying the fact that the responsibilities and work of an Agricultural Assistant bear close resemblance to that of a teacher who has to put his heart and soul in the task of raising the moral and academic standards of students. I am, therefore, of the opinion that Agricultural Assistants can achieve a lot in the accomplishment of this task provided they work in a missionary spirit and refrain from indulging in the bureaucratic intrigues.

The Agricultural Assistants have been appointed on a reasonable salary in the grade of pay of Rs. 100-10-300, which is far better than the grade of a teacher fixed by the Education Department.

Then, Sir, I wish to say that the officials in the departments of Agriculture and Veterinary, whose confirmations are long over due, are still working on a temporary basis—many of them have not even been confirmed though they have put in a continuous service of more than 15 long years. Sir, this is not fair. I believe that this sort of treatment impairs the efficiency of the Departments because the unconfirmed officials are always under the dread of being sacked any moment. I would request the Government to redress this grievance of these officials. Then, Sir, many a time it has been observed that after the completion of a training course of 5-6 months, the trained persons are asked to wait for employment. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. My submission, therefore, is that only those people be trained as are likely to be absorbed in service after completing their training. I would like to impress upon the Government that unless the officials feel safe and secure in their jobs, they can never bring to their work a sense of discipline and efficiency.

Now I would refer to the campaign for the encouragement of sugar-cane crops. It was really creditable but it was carried on to such an

extent that it adversely affected the cultivation of Sugarcane and ultimately the production of Sugar in the State. The fact is that as compared with the increased supply of Sugar, the demand has been comparatively low and due to this reason, the factories could not clear off the stocks. The situation is therefore worth taking notice of. I submit that it is the bounden duty of the officers concerned to take stock of the whole position and see that neither the cultivators, whose sugarcane crops are lying undisposed of, nor the mills are put to any loss and the production as well as the consumption of both the commodities is regularised.

Another thing which I wish to refer to, is the distribution of good seeds amongst the zamindars. Sir, with a view to getting better and more plentiful crops, efforts are no doubt being made by the department concerned for the distribution of seeds, but the progress in this direction does not seem to be satisfactory. It has been observed that the farmers have to keep waiting for many long hours in queues which involves waste of their precious time which could, otherwise be usefully employed by them. I would, therefore, request the Government through you Sir, to arrange the supply of seeds in such a manner that zamindars are not put to any botheration and do not have to waste a lot of time in obtaining them.

Then a provision has been made in the budget for the destruction of jackals and rats but no arrangements have been made for taking steps against the wild boars and wild cows that roam about and cause destruction to the crops. This matter, to my mind, also requires the immediate attention of the Government.

Then, Sir, some success has been achieved in Bee Keeping, Dairy and Poultry Farming but I feel vigorous efforts should be made to popularise these cottage industries in the State so that the zamindars may supplement their income through these. Then I find that the Demonstration farms are mostly set up near the cities because it is difficult to open them at all the places on account of the large expenditure incurred on them. One of my hon. Friends has stated that most of such farms are running at a loss. I would ask the Government to see that they do not prove a losing proposition. Ways and means should be found to make them at least self-sufficient, if not profitable at this stage. My feeling is that if there is any loss it is due to a lack of proper management etc. If the Government wants the zamindars to take advantage of these Demonstration Farms and follow their example, they should be made to believe, in practice that no loss will accrue to them by the introduction of modern methods of farming, demonstrated by these farms. I am sure otherwise the zamindars

[Principal Harbhajan Singh]

will not care to adopt these methods. So, I would impress upon the Government the necessity of making these experimental farms successful. If the department has no funds for opening large number of such Demonstration Farms then it should seek the co-operation of the wealthier section of the zamindars who can afford to offer a portion of their lands for this purpose.

This is an item of expenditure in the Budget for the purpose of importing hill grass from outside. It is gratifying to note that the Government is trying to remove the scarcity of fodder in this way. But there is one submission which I would like to make in this connection. It has perhaps, not come to the notice of the Government that in some districts particularly Hoshiarpur the grass is going waste because it is not being cut by anybody. The Muslims, who have migrated to Pakistan, used to cut this grass but now there is none to cut it. If arrangements are made by the Government for the cutting of this grass, this will result in twofold advantages. In the first place, this will go a long way to relieve the scarcity of fodder prevailing in Hissar and secondly its quality in the next season will improve. There is yet another matter which deserves the attention of the Government. It is that in the hilly and mountainous areas certain culturable lands are lying unoccupied because the displaced persons are not willing to go there, on account of the inferior quality of land. I would request the Government to try to find out ways and means by which lands could be brought under the plough once again.

Then, Sir, one matter in which our Government has singularly failed to adopt protective measures in time is the destruction of the crop of mangoes in Hoshiarpur and other districts this year. The damage to the crop has been extremely heavy and perhaps the worst since last forty years or so. The Government should have taken steps to protect the mango crop under the advice of its Horticulture Experts. But it is regrettable that no satisfactory arrangements were made in this matter with the result that nearly the whole of the crop was damaged. If somehow the Government was unable to do the job itself, it should have entrusted this work to the various Co-operative Societies.

The last thing that I wish to suggest to the Government is that in such areas where no other arrangements for irrigation exist tube-well, should be sunk, so that it may give an impetus to the Grow More Food campaign.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi) : Sir, It goes without saying that India is an agricultural country. But in spite of the fact that agriculture

is the main vocation of the majority of the people we are not self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. We have to import 5 million tons of foodgrains from other countries every year and spend crores of rupees on them. Therefore the Government of India and the Punjab Government should give priority to the production of foodgrains so that this drain on our finances may stop. Now we have to see what provisions the State Government has made with regard to this vital problem in the present Budget. In the report of the Planning Commission on Page 76 it is written :—

That for 3 year previous to the year 1949-50, the area under cultivation in India did not increase but remained near about 167 million acres. Yet the production fell from 46.16 millions to 42.1 million tons. Our production of wheat maize etc. per acre is for less than the production in other countries of the world and perhaps our production is the lowest on an average per acre of land.

On an average, we have three-fourths of an acre of land per individual. The conclusion that one naturally draws from this is that we should resort to intensive cultivation as we have not got enough land at our disposal. The Government should, therefore, pay more attention to this department with a view to stepping up production. I may submit that if we do not try to increase our production, our country can never hope to become self-sufficient in foodgrains with the result that whenever imports are disturbed either by war or some other reason there will be food riots in the country, and thus the peace of the country will be jeopardised. So the Government should carefully see what efforts are needed in this direction.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is the condition of our cattle. It is a matter of common knowledge that at present the condition of our cattle is very bad. We should adopt measures to improve it. I am of the opinion that unless we pay proper attention towards our cattle wealth our nation cannot progress.

In this connection I may point out that our 22 bullocks are equal to 3 bullocks of Egypt and our 10 to 20 cows yield as much milk as one cow in some of the Western countries. Thus one person's share of milk in India on an average comes to 5 ounces a day while it should be at least 30 ounces. In other words the milk deficiency in India is 600 per cent. It is regrettable to note that for production of better breed of cattle, our Government pays very little attention. From the Annual Report of 1950-51 of the Civil Veterinary Department, Punjab it is very clear that on 31st March, 1951 the strength of buffaloes/bulls was 3816 while the required number should be 14421. That is there was shortage of 10591, Similarly is the case of cow bulls, the position was as follows :—

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

Present : -- 6871

Required: -- 10628

Shortage : -- 3751

Well Sir, the figures which I have quoted speak volumes. They indicate the poor condition of our cattle wealth and weak position of milk supply in the country. In other words the shortage of milk supply resulting from under-fed cattle and insufficient quantity of food-grains, issued under the rationing scheme, to our people, are bound to affect their vitality adversely. It is no exaggeration that our people are seriously suffering from mal-nutrition, and the vitality of our man-power is deteriorating every day. It is high time that Government took tangible measures to stop this rot not only in our people but in our cattle as well. It goes without saying that deterioration has set in our cattle wealth and the milk supply is decreasing gradually. It is common knowledge that milk is the main item of nutrition on which an agriculturist depends. If he loses this as a result of the present bad condition of our cattle, naturally he will be hit hard.

His purchasing power is not such as to enable him to buy good cattle. Now-a-days even an ordinary cow costs about Rs. 250/. I am therefore, of the opinion that Government should give its undivided attention towards the improvement of our cattle wealth. I go a step still further and suggest that Government should deal with this problem on a war or national emergency basis that is, on a non-political basis. If it makes an endeavour to resolve this problem on the lines suggested by me, I am sure, it will be a step in the right direction. It needs no mention that agriculture is of vital importance to our State as it is the mainstay of our people. So I would say, even at the cost of repetition, that if this problem is tackled on proper lines, it will not only help in raising the standard of living of the zamindars in particular and the populace of the State in general but will also go a long way in affording relief to the refugees whose main occupation is agriculture.

Now we have to see as to how far these points have been kept in view by the Government while preparing the Budget. A perusal of the budgetary grant under the Demand will show retrogression all round. The picture presented by the figures given in the Budget is simply ludicrous. The subsidy which used to be given by the Government during the previous years for sinking wells is now conspicuous by its absence. Its total stoppage does not bring any credit to the Government. Then a provision to the tune of rupees 20 lakhs was usually earmarked for supplying

manure to the zamindars, but now it has been reduced to Rs. 6 lakhs. This was a very useful provision as it helped the zamindars a lot in increasing their output. The matter does not stop here. Despite the fact that we have ample electric energy at our disposal, Government has failed to supply the same to the zamindars or in the rural areas for the establishment and development of cottage industries. Then it will take about eight years to supply water to the zamindars for irrigation purposes from the Bhakra Dam Project, but what has the Government done for this intermediary period? It has stopped the irrigation facilities which were easy of reach to the zamindars by discontinuing the grant of subsidy for sinking wells. Now what will be result of this action? Naturally production will be affected adversely and it will go down.

As you are aware, Sir, there are three methods of making the "grow more food" scheme a success or helping the zamindars to step up production. The first is that Government should arrange to make the maximum quantity of water available to the zamindars for irrigating their lands. It is immaterial whether the supply of water is made through tube-wells or by other means. The zamindars should get manure at the proper time and for that Government should give them subsidy for making compost. The third essential thing is the supply of good seeds. I am of the opinion that if those suggestions are given effect to by the Government, the production of food-grains will definitely be increased. But the difficulty is that Government brings forward such schemes as can never prove of any use to the people. Of course a few henchmen of the Government do get some employment as a result of its schemes. I may be wrong in drawing this conclusion, but the fact remains that the schemes proposed by and intended to be taken in and during this year do not find favour with the people. For instance, there is a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 30,510/-. The object of this scheme is to hold crop competitions at village, tehsil, district and State levels, with a view to help the Grow More Food Campaign and thereby stepping-up food production. What is more, Government has, on the basis of this paper scheme, estimated that as a result of this scheme, the State will have an additional yield of about 20 lakh maunds of food during this year. But what is the incentive that is being offered to the zamindars in the shape of prizes? Only a paltry sum of Rs. 5/- or Rs. 10/-! Do my hon. Friends on the Treasury Benches think that for the sake of winning this petty prize the zamindar will go the whole hog of incurring extra expenditure on manure, water etc.? Nothing of the kind! That time is gone when the zamindar was prepared to lay down his life for a mere pittance. Now, Sir, let me just point out how this amount of Rs. 30510/- has been disbursed. An amount of Rs. 7,000/-

[Sardar Ajmer h]

is noted in the Blueprint as pay of one Officer on Special Duty (Crop Competition) in P. A. S. Class II at Rs. 575 per mensem in the grade of Rs. 250-25-550/25-750 with increment from 1st November. Then a sum of Rs. 4510/- is set aside as pay of the establishment, which includes one Head Clerk, two junior clerks and two peons. Apart from this we find that other items like the Travelling Allowance consumes Rs 3,000/-; Other Allowances and Honoraria account for Rs. 5140/-. Propaganda and Publicity and other Contingencies respectively come in for Rs. 7860/- and Rs. 3,000/-. It will be seen that this huge amount is to be expended in reality in the name of the Crop Competition Scheme and not in financing it. The whole amount is to be consumed by the establishment. The real object of the scheme is to be achieved by raising funds in the form of fees. In other words Government is not spending anything from its coffers to award prizes to the zamindars. The money realised from zamindars as entry fees will be returned to them in the shape of prizes. I feel that the interests of the zamindars would have been served better, if the Government had given this amount of Rs. 30,510/- to the zamindars in the form of such help as would result in stepping up food production. As I have stated already, the zamindars need to be enthused or given an incentive to increase their produce. Government should formulate schemes aiming at this objective and be practical in its outlook. But the difficulty is that it believes and wastes money on imaginary, hypothetical or paper schemes, just as it hopes to have an additional production of foodgrains to the tune of 20 lakh maunds as a result of the Scheme of Crop Competitions !

Now I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Krishnamchari Report. I am of the view that if the Government had made any provision in the Budget with a view to giving a practical shape to the recommendations contained in the Krishnamchari Report, then things would have been different. The food production would definitely have been stepped up. I would just read out a few extracts from that Report for the enlightenment of the House. The report says:-

Agricultural production cannot be increased unless the peasant is given an incentive. This can be done only by assuring to the agriculturist minimum prices for agricultural crops. The Government of India should make a declaration of policy to the effect that they will take steps to ensure that prices are not allowed to fall below a minimum level.

I think if the Government takes steps to assure the zamindars that they will receive the maximum return for their crops, there is no reason why our food production should not go up. It is common knowledge that

despite the fact that the Government of India imports food-grains at a higher price and sells to the people at a lower rate, thus undergoing a loss to the tune of crores of rupees, we hear a great hue and cry that prices of foodgrains are still high and that they should be brought down. I, therefore, suggest that if the Government holds out a definite assurance to the zamindars that the prices of the food-grains would not be allowed to go down beyond a certain limit and that they would be paid the highest price according to the prevailing rates, then I have not a shadow of doubt that our food production would be increased to a very considerable extent.

Then, Sir, there is another item of Rs. 184,000/- earmarked for Agricultural Demonstrations and Propaganda including Public Exhibitions and Fairs. The object is to help the Grow More Food Campaign. But as the title of the scheme indicates, the whole amount will go to meet the salaries, etc., of those persons whom Government wants to provide, and the real object will be lost. I would again ask the Government to be more practical and realistic while formulating schemes regarding increase of food production. I have again to refer to the Krishnamchari Committee's recommendations.

Launching of Village Extension Schemes, renaming of the Grow More Food Campaign as Rural Improvement Scheme, re-orientation of the campaign so as to rouse mass enthusiasm, utilisation of non-official leadership in carrying out schemes, assuring of floor prices by Government for agricultural crops in order to give incentive to farmers, greater emphasis on minor irrigation are among the other main recommendations.

I hope Government will be well-advised to take advantage of this report and endeavour to translate these recommendations into practice. This is bound to bear good fruit.

Then, Sir, the more I peruse the schemes formulated by Government in the name of stepping-up of food production, the more I feel exasperated, because they are more or less paper schemes. Let me just point out how money is being squandered by the Government. A sum of Rs. 2,000/- is set aside for the production of literature. Then a sum of Rs. 7,000/- is to be spent on the production and purchase of films etc. Then Rs. 1,000/- account for models, Rs. 30,510/- for Crop Competition Scheme and Rs. 1,84,000/- for intensive cultivation scheme. I feel that this is a sheer waste of money.

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

I request the Government not to waste this money but to utilise it in such a manner as may result in the good of the villagers and others. Instead of doing this work for the sake of propaganda, the Government should aim at achieving real results. Unless the method of doing this work is changed and proper attention is paid to the necessity of improving cattle wealth in the State, agriculture cannot make any headway with the expenditure under this Head. Now, Sir, the Veterinary doctors have to play a very important role in the improvement of the cattle wealth of our State. After passing the faculty of science examination, these doctors have to study in the Veterinary College for four years. But when they join service, they are given the meagre salary in the grade of Rs. 100-10-300. Their status is so low that they fight shy of telling other people that they are veterinary doctors. Formerly their grade of pay was Rs. 100-10-300. In 1945, it was reduced to Rs. 80-7-200 but afterwards it was again brought to the old level. I have got the figures of scales of pay of Assistant Sub Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and other officers of the Police department with me. A comparative study of these shows that while the grades of other officers have been increased, the Veterinary doctors continue to be paid at a very low rate. The Government is spending Rs. 2 lakhs annually on the Veterinary College and the lowest qualification for admission to that College is F. Sc. but since the grade of pay of Veterinary doctors is not commensurate with their position, they cannot pay proper attention to their work. I hope Government will consider their case sympathetically.

Well, Sir, if the cattle wealth in the State improves, people will get more milk and agriculture will flourish. If this matter does not receive the proper attention of the Government, all its other schemes will prove useless.

Sardar Rajindar Singh Gyani (Rupar) (Punjabi) : Sir, since times immemorial it has been commonly believed that agriculture is the best vocation. Trade has been regarded as the second best and service as the lowest of all. Begging, of course, is the worst thing to do.

In the world generally and in India and this State in particular, agriculture occupies a place of great importance. It is due to the fact that the lives of all the human beings as well as the cattle depend upon it. No Government department can do any useful work, if there is not sufficient food in the country. It is, therefore our duty to devise methods for producing the maximum quantity of foodgrains from the agricultural land which we have got in this State. To achieve this object we should have

good and healthy cattle, who play a very important part in the production of food. I therefore, feel that when we seriously think of bringing all the available land under cultivation, we should also pay proper attention to our cattle wealth. Till the adoption of mechanised farming in our State, it is necessary to attend to both these things. Then, Sir, it is a matter of pride that the Agriculture Department contains the most highly qualified officers. A number of officers in this department have obtained doctorates after passing the Master of Science examination. The lowest qualification possessed by other officials is the Bachelor of Science. But it is a pity that while this Department is staffed with most highly qualified officers, their salaries and powers as compared with those of the members of the I. C. S., or I. A. S. working in the Secretariat or Civil Supplies offices, will be found to be the least of all. The officers of the Agriculture Department have a lower status as compared with other officers. I hope the Government will do some thing to remove this disparity.

Then, Sir, while spending the money provided in the demand under discussion, we have to look at the condition of the land and have to ensure that it leads to increase in production. In this connection, I am reminded of a cartoon which I saw in a newspaper sometime back. In that cartoon it had been depicted that the water issuing from a large water-outlet was reduced to a drop in the course of its passage through different stages. I am afraid that the same thing might happen with the money provided for improving agriculture in the State. If we examine any item under this demand we will find that a major portion of the money is spent on the salaries of high officers. What is more a considerable amount out of what is left is used up on the salaries of other staff and establishment. Thus very little is left for the benefit of the lands. What advantage can the cultivators possibly derive under these circumstances? In this connection, I wish to make a suggestion. Now the Government arranges to supply bricks, steel and cement required by the cultivators, who want to construct wells, through the Civil Supplies Department. If it entrusts this department with this job, I think, it will be able to accomplish this task better. In fact in two or three years it can hope to accomplish what otherwise under the present system might take ten years.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words with regard to the Grow More Food Department. Huge sums of money were advanced for this work by the Central Government and the Provincial Government also spent a

[Sardar Rajindar Singh Gyani]

considerable amount out of their revenues, but the result has not been encouraging. Under the scheme a fleet of Jeep-cars was purchased, a large quantity of petrol was consumed and Tehsil Committees Sub-Division Committees and District Committees, were constituted. Perhaps there were some Provincial and All India Committees too. Then the persons who were appointed as members of these Committees were laymen like myself, who did not know much about land and cattle. Instances have come to my notice where cultivators increased production through their own efforts but in the Government records the increase was shown as having been achieved by the Grow More Food Department.

So to my mind any expansion or extension of the departments like the one as the Grow More Food Department cannot serve any useful purpose. The desired object namely, increase in food production can only be achieved through giving every possible facility with regard to manure, seeds and implements. I can say from my personal experience that the facilities so far extended to the peasants are inadequate. More is done in theory than in practice. About two years back my brother needed badly some quantity of seed for sowing the gram crop. He told me that his minimum requirement was $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. Feeling that this was not a very great quantity and the department would be easily able to supply it, I approached the Agricultural Assistant concerned. But, to my great astonishment, I was told that the maximum quantity of gram seed that could be given to us was 20 seers. Having never purchased anything in the black-market, I was in a fix as to what to do. The result was that we had to be content with 20 Seers of gram seed and sow masri in the remaining area. What I mean to say is that if it is desired to increase production the peasant should be given every thing he needs cement and bricks for sinking wells, iron and steel for repairing implements, stud bulls to improve the breed of cattle and good seeds and manure to improve the yield of crops. The rest should be left to him. He does not need guidance and advice of the Government Officials; he knows his job better than any body else. By this own initiative he will bring about agricultural improvement.

Then, Sir, much of the money being spent on the extermination of noxious weeds such as *pohli* can be saved if the Government gets the existing law so amended as to provide for the imposition of fines on those farmers who neglect it just as the Forest Laws provide for the imposition of fines in cases where cattle strays into the prohibited area.

If similar powers to impose small fines on the farmers who neglect to remove *pohli* or provide pits for manure are vested in the officers of the Agriculture Department, I am sure, this is bound to have a good effect.

Dairy farming is an industry subsidiary to agriculture and if it is also promoted along with agriculture, there will be plenty of milk and ghee in this State and the health of the people will improve a lot. So I suggest that those people who have taken to this industry privately or want to take to it should be sufficiently encouraged.

Mr. Speaker : One minute more.

Sardar Rajindar Singh Gyani : All right, Sir. One more suggestion and I will finish my speech. At present arrangements for the supply of seeds certified and approved by the Agriculture Department are, in fact, made by the Civil Supplies Department. The dyarchical system is very defective because the Civil Supplies Department entrusts this work to some licensees who keep back much of the good seeds and supply adulterated and worthless stuff to the zamindars. Therefore, Sir, I would urge that the responsibility for the supply of seeds should rest solely with the Agriculture Department.

Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat (Jhajjar) (Hindi) : Sir, as you are aware, debate on this demand for Agriculture was opened by Shri Sri Chand, Leader of the Zamindara League. In the course of his speech he gave us a fairly comprehensive picture of the agricultural conditions prevailing in our State, the distribution of population, its divisions into urban and rural and then the various sections of the rural population itself, namely, zamindars, tenants, labourers and artisans. He also gave us facts and figures about the acreage of different kinds of land and the money that has been provided in the Budget for agriculture.

But, Sir, it is a thousand pities that while doing this, he forgot that since the days of the British regime and even after the attainment of Independence a very large part of the revenues has been continued to be spent on agriculture. Even this Budget is pro-agriculture. Taking shelter behind the slogan of 'ours is an agricultural country' all other people except those engaged in agriculture have so far been continued to be neglected. It is time the hon. Minister realised that the Zamindars or the cultivators are not the only people who have returned them to power and they have duties towards other sections of the rural population as well. I have to remind them of all these facts because they are once again becoming too much agriculture-minded. For

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years we have been hearing them say that the ownership of the entire land will be vested in the village communities. People are ripe for this agrarian reform since long. They would have even welcomed a revolution. But nothing has been done so far in this direction. True, agriculture being the basic and the key industry cannot be neglected, but what I want to stress is that it should not be allowed to be monopolised by one section of the people only. Whatever land reforms are introduced, the interests of those who are neither owners nor regular tenants but who depend on land for their living should not be ignored. These reforms should not be such as to throw out of work this section of the rural population, I mean the agricultural labour. In spite of the fact that so much has been spent on holding the meetings of this Assembly and its various Committees and our visits to Simla, we have not so far been able to solve even one problem, namely, how to save the tenants from forcible ejectments and from the dreaded unemployment. The result is that under the regime of this Congress Government people are being thrown out of work. The legislation that has been enacted in this connection has made matters worse for the Harijans and others who formerly used to supplement their income by managing to get a strip of land for cultivation on *Batai* basis from some zamindars whether big or small. Now no body is willing to give them even an inch of land for cultivation on this basis. I am astonished to note that our friend, Shri Sri Chand while speaking in this House to-day did not sketch the same picture of the condition of Harijans which he had drawn in his paper 'Jat Gazette' in a series of articles under the caption 'Haryana Zamindars and Harijans'.

Then this benign Government has provided a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 only in the Harijan Education Fund. The population of Harijans in this State being about 25 lakhs, this means that the Government is spending not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ or $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas per head on the education of Harijans. Is this the way they are going to uplift the Harijan community?

In connection with the Grow More Food Campaign, a piece of legislation known as the Punjab Utilisation of Waste Land Act was passed. With a view to implement the provisions of this Act, it has been publically announced that if the Zamindars will not try to bring under cultivation waste land this will be handed over to the Harijans. We welcome this announcemet most heartily.

Then, Sir, it needs no mention that land is a natural gift and therefore it must vest in the community as a whole. I think, it would be better if

the land is nationalised. The farming on individual basis must be abolished and it should be done on co-operative lines. In this way the productivity of the soil would increase through joint efforts. I may sound a note of warning to the Government that if land reforms are not introduced in the Punjab, there will be a great discontentment among the masses and this might lead to an upheaval like there was in China where a failure to reform the agrarian system was the main cause of the revolution.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I may point out at the very outset that the Government has been very stingy in the allocation of funds for agriculture. I had already anticipated this and my feeling is that whatever amount has been provided in the Budget would not be rightly spent for the development of agriculture in the State. The outstanding example of the misuse of the budgetary provision consists in the fact that the Government has provided the sum of Rs. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for the employment of the C. I. D. staff to remove deep discontent and dissatisfaction amongst the rural people. This shows that the Government intends to remove this growing unrest of the peasantry through the C. I. D. staff or in other words, it has perhaps thought it fit to entrust the work of Agriculture to the C. I. D. We also see that the relations between the landlords and the tenants are strained and clashes between them are taking place now and then. This indicates that the Congress Government has failed to tackle the tenancy problem effectively and to the satisfaction of the people. It is following a repressive policy against the tenants and has also resorted to firing on several occasions in order to curb the growing unrest prevailing in the villages. On the other hand the landlords are obsessed with the idea that the Government is going to confiscate their lands. Though the Government may profess that it is safeguarding the rights of the tenants yet I have received telegrams from Panipat that a large number of tenants has been forcibly evicted out of lands extending to 1,500 acres and that they are in a helpless state. How can there be development of agriculture in our State when the real tillers of the soil are turned out of their lands? These people cannot put their heart and soul to increase the productivity of land unless they are given an assurance that they shall never be disturbed from the land they are occupying.

There exist 25,86,000 acres of culturable waste land and 18,66,000 acres of fallow land, that is 44 lakhs acres of land in our State. If this land is allotted to the tenants or Harijans for cultivation there can be a considerable increase in the production. But the pity of it is, that the Government

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has never considered distributing this land to the tenants. Secondly, the land left by Muslim evacuees has been allotted to the displaced persons from Pakistan who are not assigned to one permanent place, with the result that they cannot cultivate the land properly and get satisfactory produce from it. I am of the view that unless Zamindari is abolished there cannot be any improvement in agriculture. The magic of ownership will turn the land into gold. If the peasant is made to feel that none will deprive him of land or share the produce, the reward of his hard labour with him, then I am sure he would put in his best efforts to develop it. But what we find today is that the Government, by its policy, notwithstanding its declarations, is trying to deprive the tenants of their land. About 8,000 tenants have already been evicted out of their land and I have reasons to believe that 20,000 more tenants will be displaced as a result of the Government's announcements. The result of such large scale ejections is the growing unrest among the tenants.

Besides this, Sir, the Government has made a provision in the Budget for the killing of monkeys, who damage crops of the Zamindars. I may point out that widespread damage has been caused to the crops in the district of Hoshiarpur and particularly in Una tehsil. I think it would have been much better if the Government had granted licences for arms to the Zamindar so that they could protect their crops from the depredation of the monkeys.

Then, Sir, I would say a few words about the Government Agricultural Farms. Here the land is cultivated by tractors. There are serious allegations against the officers of the Government Agricultural Farm that they purchase old tractors and pass them off as new ones. This is not all. Even bogus bills are prepared in which the wages of 100 persons are charged whereas 50 persons are actually engaged for agricultural work. This tainted money is distributed amongst the officers themselves. I have in my possession many letters showing how these officers of the Agricultural Farms are a party to these serious malpractices. I would suggest that a committee be constituted consisting of the members of this House to make enquiries into this matter. Then, Sir, Jeeps have been provided to the Agricultural Assistants for the purpose of agricultural demonstrations and propaganda among the peasants. Sir, if you were to know what propaganda these officers do in the countryside, you will be fully convinced that the money spent on the purchase of these jeeps has practically been wasted.

Sometime back I happened to be in a village and I heard a song which was being broadcast in the jeeps which are meant to make demonstrations and do propaganda among the villagers. It was like this—

मुण्डा मोह लिया तबीतां बाला, दमड़ी दा सक मल के ।

मुंडा मोह लिया तबीतां बाला दमड़ी दा सक मल के ।

Sir, you may yourself judge from this obscene and objectionable song the value of the propaganda of the Agriculture Department done for popularising the modern methods of farming. It will be seen that the records played in these jeeps, instead of doing any good to the Zamindars are bound to influence them morally and sentimentally. Such songs tend to create adverse effect upon the impressionable minds of the young folk in the villages who sometime cannot easily shake off the improper influence of such songs.

Then, Sir, the sum of Rs. 3 lakhs has been ear-marked for imparting education in agriculture. But may I ask how many agricultural schools have been opened by the Government in the State? In fact Government has not devoted any attention to the matter of imparting education and knowledge to the Zamindars regarding the modern methods of agriculture and the latest agricultural development made in other countries. Punjab is predominantly an agricultural State and yet agriculture is a depressed industry here. The Government should make every effort to improve agriculture on which depends the prosperity of 80 per cent of the population. In the end, I would submit that the Government should allocate adequate funds for the development of agriculture in the State and should see that its officers exercise strict vigilance and control over the expenditure and do not allow the money provided in the Budget to be misused in any way. I would say that the hon. Members who have been returned from the rural constituencies and are sitting silent on the ministerial benches are not serving the cause of kisans. Sir, I cannot help expressing my apprehension that the amount provided in the Budget would be spent mainly on the salaries of officers of the Agricultural Department.

Shri Rizaq Ram (Rai) (Hindi): Sir, our State urgently stands in need of agrarian reforms because 80 per cent of the population depends upon agriculture for its living. There is no doubt that assurances are held out by the hon. Ministers that the Government will do its best to improve the lot of the agriculturists in the State but still I wish that the

[Shri Rizaq Ram]

Government had addressed itself to this task more seriously than it has done so far.

Mr. Speaker, with your kind permission I wish to place 2 or 3 points before the House. The Punjab Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, 1946, has worsened the relations between the zamindars and the tenants. It is a matter for regret that the tenants instead of being afforded any protection, are being ejected from their lands. They previously used to supplement their income by managing to get a strip of land for cultivation on *Batai* basis from some zamindars but now they are unable to get any land for cultivation. The result is that these poor people are being thrown out of work. I, therefore, request the Government to enact some legislation to save the tenants from forcible ejectments. Their co-operation with the zamindars will surely result in augmenting food production in our State.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand has complained that the Government has some schemes up its sleeves to deprive the zamindars of their lands. I do not think, Sir, that there is any such legislation under the contemplation of the Government by which it wishes to nationalise all the lands. Had there been any such legislation under consideration of the Government, he would have been justified in making such remarks. According to his own words there are 25 lakhs owners of land in our State. Out of this number about 14 lakhs are in possession of less than 5 acres of land each, about 5 lakh possess 10 acres of land each and thus about 19 lakhs of cultivators are such as get land for cultivation from other zamindars.

The tenants are in distress and stand in immediate need of protection for their rights. Out of the total number of 25 lakhs zamindars about 2 lakhs are big zamindars each of whom is in possession of about 30 acres of land. They practically do nothing and enjoy the fruits of the labours of others. They give a very small share of the produce to the tenants whose children and women work day and night in their fields. Chaudhri Sahib while not caring about the interests of 20 lakhs of people of this State who entirely depend upon land wishes to plead the cause of 2 lakhs of parasites. He wishes to let the things continue as they have been in the past. Sir, if this state of affairs continues, I am afraid, the people whom Mahatma Gandhi wanted to save from ruination and who have no other source of eking out their living, would be reduced to abject penury.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi): Sir, the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches, during the course of their speeches, complained that the Opposition Members made criticism only for the sake of criticism and put forward no constructive suggestions. Sir, on the other hand the Opposition Members have got this grouse against the Ministers that, except making propaganda speeches, they do not even care to listen to the useful suggestions made from this side of the House. I am sure, Sir, that a good deal of economy could be effected had the Government listened to the constructive suggestions made by the Members on both sides of the House. But, the Chief Minister, while making his speech, stated that this was, in fact, indicative of a conflict between the haves and have-nots.

Well Sir, the criticism made by us was that the number of Ministers was large and should be reduced but this point has been conveniently ignored by the Chief Minister. The Minister for Development is the only person upon whom we depend and trust that he would do something good for the rural people. Sir, a very important subject is under discussion today. It becomes all the more important because 85 per cent of the whole population in our State depends upon Agriculture, and because about 85 per cent of the State Revenue is derived from the villages. Sir, it pains me to see that crores of rupees are being spent on the import of foodgrains from the foreign countries. I feel that if this huge amount of money had been properly utilised for the development of agriculture, this country would have abounded in foodgrains and the necessity for importing the same from abroad would have been obviated.

Sir, in this connection I may submit that the Grow More Food Scheme, which the Government had launched in this State, was nothing short of a fraud played on the public. Even the Government has admitted that it has served no useful purpose. As a matter of fact this scheme has become notorious for the colossal waste of Government funds. It should be immediately scrapped.

Through you, Sir, I want to impress upon the Government that the problem of increasing food production is of vital importance to our country. It is of no importance that certain Officers be provided with Jeep cars or given certain allowances. It is important that we should create an incentive amongst the public to produce more. For this purpose Sir, I want to impress upon the hon. Minister for Development, that it is very necessary that the Zamindars should be paid the maximum price for their produce. But what we find in practice is that the reverse is

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happening. The Government purchases wheat from the zamindar at Rs. 13-8-0 per maund and sells it at a Government Depot at Rs 16-8-0 per maund. The middle class people purchase it at that rate because they are obliged to do so. But the pity of it is that the zamindar is not given the full return for his produce. Sir, I want to remind my hon. Friends sitting on the Treasury Benches, that in our Parliament, during the discussion on the Budget, it had been said that the criterion of price of a commodity rested upon two things ; the first being the cost of production and second the standard of living of the producer. Sir, nobody can deny that the standard of living in the Punjab is higher than anywhere else in this country ; the cost of production is higher, too. I therefore, hope, Sir, that the Government would take steps to create an incentive amongst the zamindars to step up production by giving them the due return for their produce. To my mind this is the most important factor in the Grow More Food scheme.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the consolidation of holdings scheme, which is not working satisfactorily. It has been found, Sir, that the rate of consolidation fee charged by the Government from the poor zamindars is much higher than the actual cost incurred by the Government on this work. I, would, request the Government to charge as consolidation fee only its actual expenses from the poor zamindars.

Then, Sir, it was stated by the Government that it could not make this scheme a success for want of sufficient trained staff. I think this difficulty can be obviated if the Government utilize its Revenue staff by giving it the necessary training for some time. It is already paying salaries to the Patwaris and other Revenue staff working throughout the State and it will not have to incur any additional expenditure by switching them over to the consolidation work. By doing so the Government can simultaneously start the consolidation work all over the State, and accomplish it sooner. In this connection I want to submit that a lot of interference is being made from Simla by the higher Officers in this work and this hampering the progress of consolidation of lands in the State. The consolidation officers are not permitted to exercise their discretion in the execution of the work and this sometimes affects the output of the work very adversely. I would quote an instance for the information of the hon. Minister for Development. Recently the consolidation staff working in Tehsil Samrala in Ludhiana District, completed its work in that Tehsil

and it had to start the consolidation work in Jagraon Tehsil in the same District. But no definite instructions were given to it regarding the village from which it had to start working in that Tehsil. Since the Consolidation Officer was not permitted to use his own discretion in the matter, he telegraphically requested the Headquarters for instructions and had to wait for a reply. The result was that 61 Patwaris had to sit idle for some days. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Development to give careful consideration to this matter and allow the Consolidation Officers to use their own discretion in the execution of the work, so that they may be able to finish their work quickly.

One thing more to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Development is that the staff of the Department of Agriculture, posted at the District Headquarters is not doing any useful work. Already two or three hon. Members preceeding me have criticised the working of this staff. This staff which consists of one Extra Assistant Director, some Agricultural Assistants and some other junior officials has proved of no utility to the public. Similarly the Demonstration farms have not been able to serve any useful purpose for the public.

We find, Sir, that a poor zamindar who is not the least equipped with the modern agricultural implements, is able to produce the same quantity of foodgrains per acre as these expensive farms are producing. I therefore, request the Government to give up the present Demonstration Farms and in their place appoint mobile Demonstration Staff which may give demonstrations in modern farming in every village and impress upon the zamindars the desirability of making use of the modern agricultural implements with a view to increasing production. Then, Sir, Government can better help the zamindars by supplying them with seeds of good quantity. I hope, Sir, that if the Government is able to do all this, a zamindar who has got his land consolidated and who can afford to purchase a tractor for tilling his land, can add much to the production of foodgrains. Further, Sir, my feeling is that if my suggestions are accepted by the Government no additional expenditure will be involved and yet the rural population will be enormously benefited.

Another thing that I want to mention is that the officials of the Department of Agriculture, posted at the District Headquarters seldom tour their beats and simply issue orders while sitting at their Headquarters. What they do is this. They constitute Committees of the people of their areas and call their meetings at the Headquarters. This is the reason Sir,

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why they lack practical knowledge of their work. Let me tell the hon. Members my personal experience regarding this affair. Three or four days back, I attended a meeting of the District Grow More Food Committee at Ludhiana. In that meeting, I enquired from an official representing the Agriculture Department, the number of Tube-wells, installed in the District under this scheme and the number of Agriculture Farms opened. But to the surprise of all the gentlemen, present in that meeting, that official failed to give even this much information. At this the Deputy Commissioner ordered the officer in-charge of the Department, working there, to supply the required information immediately and directed him to regularly submit a weekly report of the progress of the work done by his Staff.

Then, Sir, it goes without saying that the entire population of the rural areas depends upon agriculture no matter whether an individual owns one *kanal* or one acre of land. It is a thousand pities that whereas in rural areas every land-holder is subjected to land revenue, the people working in the urban areas are not required to pay income tax on their income upto a certain limit.

So I will suggest that the land revenue should be fixed on the same basis and principle as the income tax of course, nobody should object if the big landlords are subjected to heavy rates of land revenue.

Sir, we often hear that the Government of this State is the Government of the tillers of soil. But I feel that it must do a great deal before it can earn this name. I ask the Minister for Development why a Finance Corporation has not been established for the benefit of the cultivators when one could be so easily set up for the development of industry? Is it not strange to find that an agriculturist cannot be given more than Rs. 500 by way of loan for taccavi whereas an industrialist can get a loan to the extent of Rs. 50,000. Since agriculture is equally of vital importance to the State, I would request the Government to provide the tillers of the soil the same financial facilities as are being enjoyed by the industrialists and traders.

Now I come to the consolidation scheme. I think that the consolidation scheme as it is being put through will not be of much avail to the State. It may help us temporarily but after two or three generations land will again have been distributed among our descendants and they will be faced with the same trouble as that which confronts us to-day. To my mind

a permanent remedy lies in co-operative farming. This system of farming will entail less expenditure and bring much larger profits than the cultivators may have ever made. I would request the Government that it should try this experiment in a few tehsils or districts and then introduce it in the whole State in case it is found satisfactory.

Shri Jagat Ram Bhardwaj (Hoshiarpur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I am glad to find that the Minister for Development happens to be very sympathetic towards the zamindars. This means that agriculture will greatly improve in our State. Still I wish to make one or two submissions.

The first thing of which I wish to make a mention is the Co-operative Bank at Hoshiarpur. It will be recalled that this Bank had to leave investments in the form of deposits in the Central Co-operative Bank at Lahore. Consequently it has nothing to offer to the zamindars by way of loans to help them. Neither the Punjab Government nor the Government of India has come to its rescue and it is in a miserable state bordering upon bankruptcy. Therefore I would request the Minister for Development that he should persuade the Government of India to recover the capital of this Bank from Pakistan. However, if it be not possible for the Government at an early date then the Government of India or the Punjab Government should do something to help this Bank. A large sum of over Rs. 50 lakhs of this Bank has been locked up and it is made to pay a good deal by way of interest to the depositors even when it does not itself earn any interest at all.

The next point relates to our lands and crops in the Hoshiarpur District. Lands in the Hoshiarpur District are being eroded and rendered useless by the action of ' chos '. The mango crops are being destroyed by ' tela ' and other crops by wild animals which have multiplied in large numbers after the partition as the evacuee lands left by Muslims have turned into Jungles. Something should be done immediately to stop the havoc which is being wrought by the ' chos ' and the erosion in general. I am pained to say that the reclamation work which is being done in my district is far from satisfactory and is being carried on at the same slow speed at which it was done scores of years ago. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue any longer and the the Government should take steps to see that its officials do the work which is entrusted to them, properly. Then officials of the Agriculture Department are required to do the work of demonstration and advertisement. But I fail to see as to what is being demonstrated or advertised by them. They have, infact, nothing to

[Shri Jagat Ram Bhardwaj]

demonstrate or advertise. They had been given oxen and carts and servants to carry modern implement to the villages for purposes of demonstration but fortunately or unfortunately now there are no implements which are to be carried to the villages. The oxen, their carts and the servants are being used by the officials for their private purpose. The fact is that the Agriculture Department has become a pasture ground for the officers.

Minister for Development : Will the hon. Member please give a concrete example.

Shri Jagat Ram Bhardwaj : I can give you examples. As far the Demonstration Farms, they are decidedly doing no useful work. Then, I, also wish to say something about the statistics which are supplied by the Agriculture Department. The Prime Minister of India stated at the States Food Ministers Conference that 70 lakhs tons of food were required to meet the food deficit whereas we agreed with difficulty to get 50 lakh tons from abroad but only 40 lakh tons were actually obtained. Does not this mean that over two hundred crores of rupees would have been wasted for the extra 30 lakh tons if the statistics of this Department were relied upon? As a matter of fact Shri Kidwai was absolutely correct when he said that no reliance could be placed on these statistics. Who can believe that 16.89 ounces or half a seer of milk is made available for every Punjabi every day? But the statistics of this Department say so! Obviously such misleading statistics can be of no avail to the State, nor will any useful purpose be served by acting on a wrong hypothesis as is being done now.

There is one thing more which has surprised me a lot. It is the provision of Rs. 50,000 for the destruction of wild animals such as jackals, bears and wild cows. It is surprising that on the one hand, the Government is providing money for killing the wild animals and on the other, arms licenses are being cancelled by the local authorities. Again in those areas it is now proposed to form Shikar Clubs with a view to protecting the wild life. I would request the hon. Minister to look to the interests of the people of the Hoshiarpur District. If the 'chos' and their concomitant harmful results in that District are controlled, I am sure, it will be a step towards the prosperity of our country.

Shri Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (Hindi) : Sir, while discussing this demand regarding the Agriculture Department, we have to see whether the work that is being done by this Department is proving useful to the

zamindar or not. If the Department is only trying to imitate England in this respect, then I think its method is absolutely wrong. Such an approach cannot serve any useful purpose. As a matter of fact this Department is acting on mere bookish knowledge which has no connection with the realities of the situation. This fact is amply borne out by the way in which Agricultural Demonstration Farms are being run by this Department. Every Government Farm is running at a loss. If the cultivators were to follow the example of those Farms, they will be ruined on account of the huge losses that they will have to incur. In that case, it will be better for them to leave their lands and go and live in the deserts.

Now there are two farms working side by side in Gurgaon. One is the Government Farm and the other is the Farm of the school boys. In the former, a tube-well has also been sunk at a cost of Rs. 40,000. Besides this, it has good bullocks and it enjoys many other facilities, which are not within the easy reach of the common cultivators. But inspite of all these things, this Farm does not produce even four maunds of food-grains. On the other hand, the School Farm which works under disadvantages as compared with the Government Farm, produces more food-grains than the latter.

Then it has been said that seed of a better quality was supplied to the cultivators of the Gurgaon District. In this connection, I may point out that not a grain out of the seed supplied to the cultivators last time by the Department, germinated. But the Department has still large stocks of that defective Bajra seed, in its godowns. Even the Grow More Food Committees which my hon. Friend on my left dubbed as Committees of the flatterers, advised the Department not to issue that Bajra seed. At this the Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture replied that it had been notified that 50 per cent of the seed did not germinate. Is it not cruelty to the cultivators who are supplied seeds of such low quality? I think instead of giving them such bad seed it would be better if they are administered poison. After all this seed can be utilized as food-grains for the purpose of human consumption in places like Delhi. It is not necessary that it should be used for sowing purposes.

Minister for Development What sort of seed is the hon. Member referring to?

Rao Gajraj Singh : I am referring to the Bajra seed which was supplied in our District. Even the Deputy Commissioner and the Revenue Assistant admitted that the seed was defective.

Minister for Development : When was this seed supplied ?

Rao Gajraj Singh : Last year.

Minister for Development : The present Government has been in office for the last two months. The hon. Member should talk of the current year.

Rao Gajraj Singh : But it was only about two months ago, that the department notified that that seed did not germinate.

In other countries, which have made considerable progress in the matter of agricultural production, the officers of their Agriculture Departments are the men who are thoroughly acquainted with the farm life and the practical side of agriculture. The zamindar who is himself engaged in agriculture knows every thing regarding the sowing of crops such as Bajra, Jowar, wheat etc. As against this, officers of this Government are mostly the persons who have never had any opportunity of working on the farms. Their appointment is made on the basis of academic qualifications only. The matter is made still worse by the fact that while they lack a practical outlook they do not try to see the conditions obtaining in the villages. If they go on tours, they stay in rest houses where they hold meetings of the villagers and talk to them regarding manure and ammonium sulphate.

Now let me tell the House about the experiment of ammonium sulphate manure which was carried out in Palwal Tehsil. I am told by the people of that Tehsil that unless in the second year they used $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the quantity of ammonium sulphate which they used in the first year, the yield of crops decreased. This was also the view of the Grow More Food Committee of that tehsil and it was sent in writing to the Government.

Now I come to another thing which is of a fundamental importance. 36 Tehsils have been selected for the Grow More Food scheme. These Tehsils are mostly canal irrigated, and no Barani areas have been included in these selected Tehsils. This is a wrong basis, because I know that in a particular Tehsil where the water level is at a depth of about 60 yards, one lakh bags of Bajra were produced. The canal irrigated Tehsils have been selected for the Grow More Food Schemes not because the purpose was to increase the production of foodgrains, but because something would certainly grow in those Tehsils on account of their being canal irrigated. I therefore, reiterate that the basis for the allocation of the Grow More Food schemes is quite wrong. Now of course, the Government has realised that this campaign has not proved a success. It will be

better if it starts spending money on small schemes, such as the construction of small dams which would irrigate about 200 acres of land each. Such small schemes are rejected on the ground that these are too small to be considered on a Government level. Even the All India Congress Committee has now said that small schemes should be preferred. I would request the hon. Minister to keep in view small schemes and if he does that he will also keep in view small persons.

The next point which I wish to mention is about the Consolidation of Holdings.

Minister for Public Works : May I know whether the item of consolidation, falls under the Demand for Agriculture ?

Deputy Speaker : As Mr. Speaker has already allowed many of the hon. Members of the House to discuss the question of Consolidation of Holdings in to-day's debate, I see no reason why the hon. Member should be debarred from discussing it.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Sir, I feel constrained to remark that injustice is being done to the inhabitants of those villages, which I have the honour to represent here. The Patwaris and the Girdawars have joined hands to commit atrocities on these poor people. My hon. Friend. Shri Babu Dyal also knows full well how the poor peasants have to waste a lot of money merely on the submission of applications. They have to pay heavy fees to the petition writers. But in spite of it all no heed is paid by the authorities concerned to these representations and their voice remains just a cry in wilderness.

Sir, I have made a reference to consolidation because this subject is linked up with Agriculture. Well, Sir, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the object of the Consolidation Scheme will be achieved only if the work is carried out in right earnest at every stage.

Then I want to enquire from the Government through you Sir, as to what are the achievements to its credit in the sphere of research, of which it could feel proud ? I want to know how many people have been given training in modern farming ? May I know what progress has been made in respect of Demonstration Farms ? Sir, I do not think that the officers who are themselves unacquainted with the actual working in the fields can ever discharge their duties well. I am, Mr. Speaker, myself a *bonafide* farmer and know.....

Minister for Development : You are a bogus farmer.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Yes, as bogus, as my hon. Friend himself is, (*laughter*). Well, Sir, I was submitting that being a farmer myself, I have got a wide experience of Agricultural Farms. I make bold to say that as compared with the officers engaged on the Demonstration Farms and those posted at headquarters, I am better acquainted with the ins and outs of agriculture and farming. Sir, you will be surprised to know that once when I asked a technical question regarding agriculture from a responsible officer of the Department, he was unable to reply to it. This is the standard of their ability and their grasp over the subject ! Is it not a glaring instance of nepotism, namely, that the people who do not even possess elementary knowledge of the subject are appointed to such responsible posts ? Sir, I am confident that only those persons who till the lands with their own hands are better equipped with the Technicalities of the subject than these officers and, therefore, in the end I would suggest to the Government that if it is desirous of seeing the Department making headway in the domain of Agriculture, then only those persons should be appointed as Director or Assistant Director of Agriculture, who possess practical knowledge in the field of Agriculture.

Sardar Partap Singh (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, you are aware of the fact that India is predominantly an agricultural country and particularly the State of Punjab is considered to be its granary. But the position is that the methods and implements employed at present in the process of cultivation are not too effective to record any substantial produce. The result is that we have to face occasional conditions of scarcity and famines in our country. Sir, even the President of India, Doctor Rajendra Prasad, also dealt with this point in his Address, which, he delivered to the Parliament the other day. He says "A primitive and medieval agriculture produces recurring famines in our State."

It is, therefore, of paramount importance that with a view to achieve concrete progress in the field of agriculture, to accomplish the real object of the Grow More Food Scheme and, above all, solve the acute food problem of the country modern methods of cultivation will have to be adopted. These methods undoubtedly entail heavy expenditure. I admit that with the limited resources at its disposal it is not possible for the Government to make such large investments in this direction; yet there is no gainsaying the fact that at the same time it is the bounden duty of the Government to come to the aid of each individual cultivator as far as possible.

Sir, it has been observed that at present, subsidies and taccavis are being sanctioned only for the purpose of sinking tube wells. But just for comparison, let us see what is the state of affairs in the neighbouring State of Pepsu. The Government of Pepsu has really adopted a very commendable policy in the matter of providing relief and facilities to the tillers. A good deal of financial aid is being given to the Co-operative Societies formed by groups of cultivators for the purchase of tractors and other agricultural implements. Therefore, I suggest to the Government through you, Sir, that with a view to obtaining larger yields from our fertile lands, it should encourage the cultivators to use scientific methods of cultivation and for this purpose extend financial assistance to them liberally.

Sir, more often than not it has been stated that Punjab has got large food reserves to meet any eventuality, but this fact should not make us blind to the need of adopting measures to increase food production of the State. I am of the opinion that the Government should not slacken its efforts in this direction because it is an acknowledged fact that the quantity of food production in our State is mainly dependent on the weather conditions i. e., if the rains are favourable, there are good harvests, but if the rains fail, the crops fail, too. Therefore, keeping these facts in mind I would request the Government to make endeavours to put the present system of agriculture on scientific lines and instead of throwing the zamindars at the mercy of the God of rain, it should sink tube wells, instal pumping sets and make available tractors and other scientific implements in cultivation. Sir, at this stage, let me make it clear to the House that being a cultivator myself, I am fully conversant with farming. I would, therefore, like to put forward some constructive suggestions for the consideration of the Government.

In our State many tracts of land have been rendered unfit for cultivation due to water-logging and saline. Sir, Government must adopt effective measures to combat the increase of water-logging and reclaim these lands for the purpose of cultivation. But I am constrained to remark that the Department of Agriculture has not, so far, taken any measures in this regard. As a matter of fact, water-logging and saline occur mostly in the areas irrigated by Canalwater. This water causes the sub-soil water level to rise, which ultimately results in water-logging and saline. The natural process of evaporation when the sub-soil water containing, sulphate and other salts reaches the surface of the earth leaving behind the saline is sometimes retarded with the result that land where this happens becomes unfit for cultivation. With a view to preventing this

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happening it is necessary for the Government to sink tube-wells in those areas and reduce the supply of canal water. Sir, I am confident that the tube-wells will go a long way towards bringing down the sub soil water level and help in making the level fit for cultivation. It is possible that discontinuation of supply of canal water may cause resentment among the zamindars, but I think that if effective propaganda is carried on to make the people concerned realise that this measure is being taken for their own benefit, they would surely extend their whole-hearted support to the Government in this task.

Then, Sir, as you are perhaps aware, the manure is the most precious wealth of the cultivators. It is common knowledge that it is generally wasted by them recklessly— perhaps out of ignorance. There is no denying the fact that if the manure is used properly, it helps to increase the production manifold. I think that the Health and the Agriculture Departments of the Government can impart very useful education to the tillers in this respect. The pity, however, is that the officers of these departments are not paying due attention to this matter of vital importance. Sir, according to a report of the Department of Health, 3,24,000 manure pits are alleged to have been dug, but I have no hesitation in saying that this report is absolutely incorrect. My suggestion, therefore, is that suitable propaganda should be carried out in the villages so as to bring home to the peasants and tillers, the importance of manure and in this regard Panchayats can be of considerable help in the accomplishment of this task. So this work should be entrusted to the Panchayats in the villages. Those Panchayats that do good work should be rewarded so that others may be encouraged.

Another matter, which deserves serious attention of the Government is with regard to the destruction of crops by wild and roaming animals. Certain unserviceable cattle are also let loose by the people and they go about destroying the crops in the fields. The religious sentiment that prevails among the masses stands in the way of killing such animals with the result that a considerable amount of damage is caused to the crops. Thus we have to face a shortage of foodgrains and fodder from time to time. I think the Government should make adequate arrangements to save the crops from the ravages of these animals.

As regards the Grow More Food Campaign the suggestion of having competitions in the growing of crops is quite sound and it should be welcomed by all sections of the House. I may point out that I do not stand here just to criticise the Government for whatever it does. I see that certain good things have been done by the Government and they should be continued. I am sorry that very recently the experiment of holding crop competitions has been slackened. This should be vigorously continued as it gives impetus to the Zamindars in their efforts to improve their crops. The award of prizes and medals will have the salutary effect of creating a competitive spirit in them to produce more. It is natural that if one farmer produces more the others try to beat him by producing even more in their desire to win the medals or certificates. If we study the psychology of the unsophisticated farmers we find that they have an ambition to win these certificates or medals. My submission is that when those who help the Police in the investigation of crimes are given prizes, why should the same practice be not introduced by the Department of Agriculture for those who produce more? The villagers are very fond of medals and prizes. Then, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister said:

I am ready to give all possible help to the industrialists.

In my opinion he should have promised such help to the agriculturists also. If the tillers of the soil are given all the necessary facilities there is no reason why production should not increase. I am strongly of the view that if our Government follows a wise policy for the encouragement of the farmers, our country will not only become self sufficient in foodgrains but also will be in a position to export to other countries of the world. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, with your permission, I wish to submit before the House my views on Agriculture. It is a well known fact that before partition our State was deficit in foodgrains but now it has become surplus. So the allegation that the Department of Agriculture has not done anything worth the name does not appear to be borne out by facts. If the allegations were true how could the deficit be turned into a surplus? I think, the Department is doing certain good things. In the first place I can say with confidence that in the matter of meeting the locust invasion, the Congress Government with the help of its officers did such an excellent work as no other Government

[Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar]

could do under the circumstances. As a result of these efforts made by the Government, our State was saved from scarcity condition of the magnitude which prevailed in Bengal a few years ago.

Well, Sir, there are four accepted essentials which can lead to agricultural progress in a State. They are consolidation of lands, irrigation facilities, supply of good seeds and the supply of manure. But there is yet another essential which to my mind is needed most—I mean, the encouragement in proper form to the tillers of the soil. So long as the agriculturists are not given any encouragement, there can be no improvement in production.

Let me explain what I actually mean by encouragement. The promise that was held out for effecting a reduction in *abiana* should be fulfilled and I do hope the Government stands by it and will keep its word. This will certainly give a stimulus to the farmers.

Another point on which some of my hon. Friends sitting on the Treasury Benches, have laid stress is that land revenue be assessed on the Income Tax basis. I am in complete accord with this view. I would also like to suggest that instead of continuing present system of land revenue the Government should realise its dues on the income tax basis. This will also give an impetus to the agriculturist to increase his produce and thereby his income.

As regards consolidation of holdings of land, I admit that the scheme is quite good but certain shortcomings have existed in its execution, I can say from my own experience that some patwaris who have been entrusted with this work are quite inexperienced and inefficient. Most of them do not know how to mark out a square or an acre of land for the purpose of consolidation. Moreover, there are certain officials of the department occupying positions of responsibility who have had no experience of revenue work throughout their service. Some of them were serving in the Rehabilitation Department from where they were pushed on to the work of consolidation of holdings. I know of an officer who has a reputation among the officers of the Punjab Government that he is very efficient and experienced in the work of consolidation but it is unfortunate that his services are being utilized somewhere else.

Minister for Development: I wish to inform the hon. Member that the person he is hinting at has already been appointed for consolidation work.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar: I congratulate the Minister for having done so. Well, Sir, what I want to say is that if the Government fails to give proper attention to the matter of consolidation of holdings, things are bound to go wrong. I suggest that the Government should formulate a definite scheme and strictly enforce it with a view to putting a stop to the evil of corruption which is rampant in the department. If this evil is not nipped in the bud, then corruption will spread like a wild fire in the department and it is possible that it may become uncontrollable. In this connection I perfectly remember that in a certain village lots for the consolidation of holdings were drawn six times and yet final decision has not been taken so far. The reason is that whosoever offers illegal gratification to the officials concerned gets the decision, already arrived at by lots disturbed and then again lots are drawn. It is natural that some inferior land must come to the share of somebody in a village. But what happens is that the aggrieved party bribes the officer and gets the previous decision annulled and new lots are drawn. So this vicious circle goes on.

Minister for Development: Will the hon. Member please name that village?

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar: The name of that village is 'Alia' and it is situated near Nagoke.

Minister for Development: I have taken note of it and I will make enquiries.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar: Well, Sir my submission is that Government should chalk out a definite scheme regarding the consolidation of holdings so that everybody may be in a position to know the real state of affairs. Every matter should be so clarified in that scheme that no Patwari, Girdawar or Consolidation Officer could make a departure from the rules laid down therein. This will enable every party to know where it stands and this will act as a great check to corruption which otherwise is bound to become the order of the day.

Then I have to make a submission in regard to the supply of water for irrigation purposes. I admit that Government has opened distributories or rajbahs at certain places and have sunk tube wells at certain other places. There is also no doubt that where taccavi has been given to zamindars, percolation wells have been sunk. But what I want to lay stress upon is this. Now-a-days canal water is not made available by the authorities in the same quantity in which it was previously provided to the zamindars.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member is irrelevant since irrigation is not under discussion.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar: Well, Sir, agriculture is closely related to irrigation and it is but natural that I should make a mention of water. Well, Sir, what I wanted to say was that the supply of water has been curtailed by the Canal authorities by the remodelling of outlets (mogas) and I request that the supply of water should be increased. This step on the part of the Government will help in stepping-up food production.

Then there is another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. After perusing the Budget I find that most of the items under the Demand for Agriculture relate to the appointment of advisory staff rather than the Field staff. May I ask from the Government that when some persons have no land and others have no water for irrigation, where lies the necessity of spending huge sums of money on the appointment of advisory staff? I suggest that no money should be spent on schemes intended to give demonstrations or advice to the zamindars about the use of improved agricultural implements or methods of cultivation, till satisfactory arrangements have been made to provide facilities of water supply to those who lack it and to allot lands to those who have not got lands so far. I hope Government will be well advised to give proper attention to this matter.

Now I come to the question of availability of seeds. There is a standing grievance of the zamindar about this matter. In the first instance seed is never made available by the Government to the zamindar in time. It is often available when the sowing season is over. But if, at all, Government is good enough to arrange for the supply of seed in time, then the seed does not turn out to be of a good quality. I think that the reason for the non-availability of good seed is this. The whole of the foodgrains are collected from the zamindars under the Procurement Scheme and then stocked by Food Department. Now the Food Department has no satisfactory arrangements for storing the foodgrains with the result that the food grains get weevilled. So at the time of sowing, these weevilled grains are issued as seeds. It is natural that some-times only fifty per cent seeds germinate and some-times cent per cent seeds do not respond. In this connection I may point out that some-time back when the fields had been fully irrigated, the seed for sowing 'chari' was not available to the great disappointment and hardship of the zamindar. It could not be had

at any cost. The zamindar was face to face with a two-fold difficulty. On the one hand the moisture in the fields was getting dried up and on the other the seed was not available. Zamindars were running from pillar to post, but all in vain. They were going to Ferozepore with the sacks on their shoulders in search of seeds of 'chari'.

My submission is that the zamindars of Amritsar were put to great hardship for want of seeds of 'chari'. It is the bounden duty of the Government to make arrangement for the supply of good seeds in time. I hope Government will give careful consideration to this matter and save the zamindars from this difficulty at the time of the sowing season.

Sardar Achhar Singh (Ajnala) (Punjabi) : Mr. Speaker, It is common knowledge that 80 or 85 per cent of the population of the State is connected with agriculture. But if you look over the budgetary provisions made under this demand during the last three years, you will find that whereas a provision for Rs. 83,79,773 was made in 1950-51 and for Rs. 61,59,650 in 1951-52, in 1952-53 a sum of Rs. 58,13,330 has been provided. It will be seen that the provision for Agriculture has been reduced gradually and there is nothing to show that it will ever be increased. This demand is of such vital importance to the State that every member of every section of the House is agreed that the amount earmarked for it be increased. I hope Government benches will pay due attention to the observations made by the Opposition members and will not turn a deaf ear simply because the criticism is coming from the Opposition.

Now, Sir, let us see how the grant under this demand is utilised. There is an item of Rs. 30,510 which has been set aside for the organisation of crop competitions. If you just peruse the disbursement of the amount, you will find that almost the whole of it has been consumed by the establishment and the allowance paid to the officers. But the funds for awarding prizes are to be collected from the zamindars themselves in the form of entry fees for joining the competitions at village, Tehsil, District and State levels. But even then the money received from one village is not to be returned in full to the zamindars of the same village in the form of prizes. I have received complaints from zamindars on this account. They say "what is the incentive if the Government is not giving anything and only their own money is being given to them in the paltry sums of Rs. 5 or 10 as prizes." I am personally not against the award of prizes for crop competitions but the manner in which the funds for the grant of prizes

[Sardar Achhar Singh]

are being collected, is objectionable. My submission is why the officers should take the lion's share of the amount of Rs. 20,000 in the form of pay and allowances? They only issue instructions on the telephone while the entire field work is done by the Agricultural Sub-Inspectors drawing meagre salaries in the grade of Rs. 30—1—40/2—6). In name they are Inspectors, but their salaries are no better than those of record restorers in an office.

Then take the case of Beldars who are also field workers. Their grade of pay is Rs. 20-8/—25. It may be added that the increment of annas eight is not to be drawn yearly but after every three years. What a colossal disparity in the salaries of the poorly paid staff and the officers in charge of the scheme! Well, Sir, the whole state of Denmark is rotten to the core. I was saying that it is most objectionable that the item of Rs. 30,000 should be utilised to meet the salaries of the staff. It should have been spent in giving help to the zamindars in one form or another.

Then, Sir, another Intensive Cultivation Scheme has been sanctioned to help the Grow More Food Campaign and a large amount has been earmarked for it. I think this is a scheme formulated by the 'Grow More Ministers' for helping the "Grow More Officers" and not for "Grow More Food". Again almost the whole of the amount goes to feed the staff. And yet no substantial work is being done because the staff engaged for the last four months has not been assigned any work. I may also add that previously the Government had decided to supply tractors to individuals on certain conditions for ploughing their fields but now it has abandoned the idea. The result is that on the one hand zamindars are experiencing great difficulty for want of tractors, and on the other the tractors are rotting in the garages. Will Government give its attention to this matter?

Then I have to say something about the non-availability of seeds. My hon. Friends preceding me have thrown sufficient light on the subject. But I would state what happened in my own tehsil regarding the supply of 'Chari' seed to the zamindars there by the Government. The sowing season is almost over and the Government is supplying the 'Chari' seed now. I do not know when it will be distributed, sown or grown.

Now let me take the case of artificial manure next. It is being sold at present at the rate of forty rupees per bag weighing 2 cwts. In this connection it may be stated that previously the Government used to give a subsidy to the zamindars but now it has stopped that. The withdrawal of financial assistance given for the purchase of manure is bound to affect the Grow More Food drive adversely. And yet the Government expects the zamindars to step up production.

Then the working of the Locust Fighting Department provides another interesting example when I had gone under-ground, I happened to go to my village at a time when it had been attacked by swarms of locusts. I found that while Ajnala was in the grip of the locusts, the police officers were sitting comfortably in a tent at a distance of ten miles from that place. The matter does not end here. Kerosene Oil which was supplied for spraying on the locusts was either replaced by water or disposed of in some other manner. When I enquired from the officers in that tent, why they were sitting idle when a place only ten miles away had been attacked by locusts, I was told that they were directing the operations from that place. The locusts flew away of its own accord, and not because any effective efforts were made by the Government to drive it away. But like the late Maharaja of Patiala who used to get himself photographed with lions and tigers killed by others, our Ministers, too, got themselves photographed with heaps of dead locusts in front of them. Those pictures were published in the newspapers to make people believe that the Ministers were doing a great deal in the matter of destroying the locusts. The same thing is happening in the case of killing monkeys. The staff employed for this work keeps itself busy in hunting deer and other animals but they send the tails of monkeys killed by others to the Government, and receive the prescribed reward at the rate of two rupees per monkey. My friend the hon. Minister for Development has been to America. Does the Director of Agriculture in that country work in the same manner in which their counterparts do in this country? The hon. Minister and I used to work together in fruit gardens and he will perhaps remember that as soon as it came to the knowledge of the Director of Agriculture in that country that damage was being done to fruit trees, he would immediately visit the spot with a spray in his hands. But in our country the officers issue instructions on the telephone only and take no personal interest in the matter.

Shri Baloo Ram (Balachaur) (*Hindi*): Sir, I have no intention to deliver a long speech on the demand under discussion but I would like to make a few suggestions about it. There are a few things to which I wish to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Minister. The Department of Agriculture is one of the most important departments and to my mind the success or failure of all other departments depends on it. I am surprised to find that a large amount of money under this head is spent on the towns and not on the villages for whose benefit it should be primarily meant. In fact suitable help is not given to those villages which deserve it most. The main work carried on by this department for some time past, has been that of the Grow More Food. But now the work of consolidation of holdings has also been undertaken by the Government. If the holdings are properly consolidated, the result will be increased production.

Then I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the difficulties of those people, whose lands are situated in the hilly areas. Most of these people have very small holdings of land and they are very often scattered. If a cultivator owns two acres of land at one place, his other holdings measuring only one or half an acre each are situated at distant places. There is another difficulty which confronts them. The land adjoining to their fields, is sometimes at a very low level and is thus subject to the inroads of chos which pass through it. At the time of consolidation of such lands, the officials concerned adopted the same practice, the same method and the same rule as are prevalent for consolidation in the plains. This results in great hardship to these people. Their cultivable lands are taken away from them and low lying uncultivable lands are attached to their small fields. In this manner, they are deprived of the lands which they had made fit for cultivation after putting in hard labour for thirty or forty years. They suffer a heavy loss as a result of this sort of consolidation. In the hilly areas if a piece of land measuring one acre lies at a certain height, and half an acre adjoining it is at a level eight or ten feet lower than it, the farmers have sometimes to spend years in levelling these lands and raising their edges. If a piece of land measuring two or three acres is split up into four or five parts and these are attached with the low lying lands adjoining them, the poor farmer, who owns it suffers incalculable loss. Instead of encouraging him to step up production, this method is bound to discourage him. I shall therefore request the Government to issue instructions to the officers incharge of consolidation work to avoid splitting up

such pieces of land. If in some cases such a division is unavoidable, arrangements should be made to compensate the persons affected.

Then, Sir, I want to point out that no steps have been taken to protect lands in Hoshiarpur District from damage done to them by Chos and Khuds. The Forest Department has been asked to look into this matter but instead of helping the farmers it is adding to their difficulties. The people in this area earn their livelihood by rearing goats and sheep. The production from their lands is not enough to feed them and their families. If their holdings can be so consolidated as to yield sufficient produce, they will not stand in need of breeding cattle. At some places lands are being reclaimed but in Hoshiarpur District, the area covered by forests is gradually increasing. The number of wild beasts is so large that they destroy the crops grown on lands which are surrounded by forests or chos. I shall therefore request the Government to give up the the system of handing over lands in this district to the Forest Department, because it cannot protect these lands from chos. The people living in this area should be encouraged to strengthen the edges of their lands and to reclaim those which are at present unfit for cultivation. The Government should help people in controlling the chos.

Another department which has no direct connection with this subject but whose work affects the lands, is the Irrigation Department. I want to submit that the canal which is being dug out at Rupar for supplying water to Jullundur and Kapurthala districts will pass over land which is very valuable and fertile. If its course is slightly altered, then fertile land can be saved. This fact was brought to the notice of the engineers but nobody paid any heed to it. If the Government pays a little attention, a large portion of productive lands can be saved and the villages which are threatened by the action of chos and khuds can also be protected.

Now, there is another important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. Evacuee land in hilly tracts that has been allotted to the refugees from West Punjab is not being properly cultivated by them. These allottees hail from the villages situated in the plains and have no experience of cultivating hilly land. The result is that they do not keep it for self-cultivation but lease it out to the local residents for a small consideration.

[Shri Baloo Ram]

This, too, is being done in the case of productive lands, and less productive land allotted to them is being entirely neglected and is fast turning arid or getting water-logged. To save this kind of land from devastation and ravages, I would request the Government to take it away from the displaced persons, give them land in return for it in the plains and distribute or allot this land to the local people. It is in the interest of the State to do so.

Then, Sir, it is a general complaint that whatever assistance in the form of material such as cement, iron and steel, seeds, etc., the Government provides for the Zamindars, does not actually reach them, though when they are remiss in any matter such as failure to remove noxious weeds etc, the Government never hesitates to impose fines upon them. Therefore, Sir, my submission is that these centres for the relief and assistance of Zamindars should be opened in villages where the requisite material may be readily made available to them. The position at present is that though the Government allocates so much iron and steel for the repair of agricultural implements yet actually the farmer is experiencing a great difficulty in procuring such materials. For all his needs, he has to go to the town and being unaware of the procedure for getting controlled commodities has to bother a lot. Therefore, it is essential that these things may be made easily available to him by opening distribution centres etc., in villages, so that the assistance meant for him reaches him direct.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It appears that most of the Members are anxious to speak on this demand. I want to give more time to those belonging to the rural areas. To Mr. Sethi I shall give just five minutes.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (Hindi) : Why this exception is being made in my case, Sir? I am a student of Economics, a small land-owner and have been representing rural constituencies all along.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : All right. The hon. Member may proceed with his speech.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, when you hear what I have to say, you will, I hope, not only not regret having given me time to speak but would not even like to stop me. Only this morning I was going through the memorandum that has been presented along with the Budget. Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me first give you an idea of what expenditure has been incurred during these four years on the Grow More Food Schemes or for that matter

for the promotion of agriculture in our State. In the Budget for 1949-50 a sum of Rs. 33 lakhs was provided for giving subsidies and a sum of Rs. 130 lakhs in the form of loans for incurring capital expenditure to the cultivators of this State. The corresponding figures for 1950-51 and 1951-52 are Rs. 40 lakhs and Rs. 46 lakhs (*Subsidies*) and Rs. 150 lakhs and Rs. 1,66 lakhs (*loans*) respectively. For the current year a sum of Rs. 27 lakhs has been provided for giving subsidies and a sum of Rs. 197 lakhs for being given to the cultivators in the form of loans. In all, during these years a sum of Rs. 147 lakhs has been provided for giving subsidies to the Zamindars and a sum of Rs. 638 lakhs for giving to them loans to finance minor Irrigation Schemes. The annual expenditure of more than a crore on the Agriculture Department provided for in the regular budget is over and above this amount. If that were also taken into account, the total amount that has been provided for the improvement of agriculture during these 4 years exceeds Rs. 10 crores. The average per year comes to about Rs. 2.5 crores. We have to admit, Sir, that it is only after spending so much money every year that our State has become surplus in foodgrains. At the end, however, it may not be forgotten that this surplus of food is more illusory than real. We have not got a surplus of wheat and rice which are the staple diet of the Punjabis. We owe this dubious distinction of being a surplus State to the increased production of Bajra and Jowar which ordinarily do not form part of our diet.

Then, Sir, most of our land is barani i. e., depending upon Nature's kindness for cultivation. If Nature gets angry with us due to our none-too-good deeds, people may well have to starve. According to the figures in this small pamphlet on 'Agricultural Statistics' the total area under cultivation in this State is of the order of 119 lakh acres.

Minister for Development : It varies from year to year.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : These are the latest figures made available to us.

Minister for Development : At present it is 115 lakh acres.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : This does not in any way affect my thesis. Out of this acreage canal irrigated area is to the tune of 30 lakh acres. Another 20 lakh acres are irrigated by wells and other means. The remainder of the area i. e., 69 lakh acres depends upon rain-fall i. e. nature's bounty. Then, according to Revenue Records the area of culturable waste land in our State is 25 lakh acres. In fact, Sir, the real problem before the

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

Agriculture Department and the Minister for Development is to ensure a regular supply of water for irrigation of 94 lakh acres of land, 25 lakhs of waste land and 69 lakh acres of land which is at the mercy of nature's whims. It is astonishing that even after spending so much on the promotion of agriculture the Government has not been able to bring this area of waste land under cultivation. It was the foremost duty of the Agriculture Department to take vigorous steps in this direction. Whether it is through the Agriculture Department or the Co-operative Societies or the Panchayats, it is the duty of every Punjabi to make every possible effort to bring this area under cultivation as early as possible. It is our first and foremost duty to bring this area under cultivation without unnecessary and avoidable delay within the next four or five years.

As I have already stated, Sir, the problem before our State is one of finding water for the irrigation of 94 lakh acres of land. Only when this problem is solved, shall we be able to say that ours is a surplus State and our food problem has been solved. Bhakra Dam on its completion after 5 or 6 years is expected to supply in all water capable of irrigating 60 to 60 lakh acres, 45 lakh acres in the Punjab and the rest in other States. But, Sir, my submission is we cannot afford to wait for the completion of such long-range projects. Our food problem will, in fact, remain unsolved so long as we are not able to ensure regular water supply to these 94 lakh acres of land already mentioned by me. The main problem for the Agriculture Department of the Punjab is to supply water to this arid but fertile land. I would, therefore, request the Minister for Development to concentrate on finding a solution of this problem instead of devoting himself to other preoccupations. Whether it is by sinking tube-wells, utilisation of sub-soil water or stoppage of canal water to Pakistan, we have to take immediate steps to bring the waste lands under cultivation with a view to making this State truly surplus.

It is a matter for deep regret that nothing substantial has so far been done in this direction. Notwithstanding the paper schemes of sinking so many percolation wells and tube-wells with the help of the Government of India on 50:50 basis, nothing practical has so far been achieved in this matter. Take the case of the Jagadhri Tehsil. Our Government had entered into an agreement with a firm for the sinking of 300 or 400 tube-wells during the year 1951-52 but only

30 or 40 tube-wells have been sunk. There is a great need for sinking of more tube-wells as agricultural prosperity is intimately connected with an adequate supply of water. But what we find is that during the present regime substantial portion of the budgetary provision is to be expended on the salaries of the officers of this department. In addition to the Director of Agriculture there is one Deputy Director also. I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the Joint Punjab comprising of 29 districts with 5,70,0000 acres of cultivated land the gross expenditure under the head 'Direction' used to be Rs. 1,75,000 whereas now when the area has been reduced to 1,19,000 acres the expenditure on 'Direction' has gone up to the extent of Rs. 2,81,000.

Minister for Development: Do you include the new scheme also?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: I do not know to which new scheme the hon. Minister is referring but that is in addition to this. There is an unnecessary expansion of staff in the Grow-More-Food Department and the expenditure on this account has gone as high as eight times the normal expenditure. It is, therefore, imperative for the Government to exercise great care and prudence to scale down this expenditure by retrenching the surplus staff.

The area of agricultural land that we have got after the partition is very much less than the land we have left behind in the West Punjab. The canal irrigated area is also much less than before and the land in the villages is also not fertile. In spite of all these handicaps, we must concentrate our efforts on increasing production to the maximum possible extent by intensive cultivation of land so that this Punjab of ours may have the same reputation which the United Punjab used to enjoy of being the granary of India.

It is a strange commentary on our agriculture that we with 80 per cent of rural population, cannot produce enough food for our own consumption whereas America with a very small population depending on agriculture grows enough food not only for home consumption but also for export to India and other countries. It has been said that Rs. 10 crores have been spent on the agricultural development in the Punjab during the last four years. It will be interesting for the hon. Members to know that the entire expenditure on the Grow-More-Food Scheme was met from the Food Bonus earned by our State on the procurement.

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

and export of foodgrains and only the expenditure in excess of the amount available in the Food Bonus was shared equally by the Central Government and this State Government. There was no burden on this State as it earned a substantial bonus on its procurement. Of the total Food Bonus earned, 75 per cent was utilised on the Grow More Food Schemes and 25 per cent on the construction of godowns and storage bins for the better storage of cereals. It may be stated that our Government supplied weevilled wheat to us and exported wheat of 591 quality to other States to earn the Food Bonus.

Minister for Irrigation : When ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : During the time of the previous Government when you were also a Minister.

Then, Sir, provision has been made for the development of garden colonies. In this connection I would submit that the Government should see that the work is carried on the right lines to achieve this end.

Shri Badlu Ram : (Kalanaur) (*Hindi*) Sir, I think I have been given an opportunity to speak because there is no other member who has now to speak on this demand. It is because of the fact that the urbanites are the first to get all facilities for themselves from the Government and the same order of precedence must apply to them in the House as well.

I have risen up to congratulate the hon. Minister for Development because he is a ruralite and also holds the charge of the Agriculture Department. I would now like to make a few suggestions for his consideration. I will first take up the consolidation of land holdings. In this regard there are two or three shortcomings to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister in Charge. The process of consolidation is in progress in my tehsil and I asked the officers that they should settle all the disputes of land before the month of May so that land may be tilled in the month of June. But on account of the go slow policy of these officers these decisions have been delayed and after some time I was told that they would do so after the 15th of June. To my mind these officers deliberately fixed this date because they knew that after the 15th June the rainy season would set in and the zamindars would be discouraged to file appeals against their orders. The reasonable course was that such decisions should have been made in the month of February so that the zamindars

could file appeals, if any, in the month of March and carry on their sowing and cultivation operations in the months of May and June.

Secondly, our Ministry should look to the interests of all classes of people in the rural areas. It should bring forward a legislative measure by virtue of which every zamindar irrespective of his being a Harijan, tenant or landlord, should be allowed to possess land upto a certain limit. This will obviate the possibility of any dispute arising between one group and another. Today the position is that on the one hand the tenants are not confident that they will get any land and on the other the landlords are apprehensive that their lands will be confiscated by the Government. As a result of this there is a constant conflict between one class and another. If the limit is fixed the possibility of disputes and litigation which cause heavy expenditure and botheration to the zamindar can be avoided. The land in excess of the specified limit should vest in the Government and should be managed by the Co-operative Societies. In this way zamindars will not have any complaint against anybody because the land will become the property of the Government.

Then, Sir, in villages all other sections are set against the Jats and in my opinion the late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram was responsible for the creation of this factious spirit. I wish that the relations between the zamindars and the Harijans should become friendly and cordial. (*Interruptions*). So far as I am concerned, Sir, I am prepared to become a Harijan and give up my own land if I am able to get Rs. 100 per mensem in lieu of it. Then I will also be able to get a house worth thousands of rupees allotted to me in some town.

Sir, at present a zamindar has to go to a town for the procurement of all his necessities but being unaware of the procedure for getting controlled commodities, he has to experience a lot of botheration. At present the seed depot stands allotted to some rich Banya in the town and whenever a zamindar, after traversing several miles reaches his shop, he is generally not available. I therefore, suggest, Sir, that all these commodities should be made available to zamindars in villages on a co-operative basis. I rather feel that every item of work of the zamindars should be on a co-operative basis. If so, we would all swim or sink together. My submission is that all these centres for the relief and assistance to zamindars should be opened in villages where the requisite material should be readily made available to them.

[Shri Badlu Ram]

Sir, agriculture is a very honest profession and all other professions when compared with it, do not appear to be of as vital an importance as this one, because without agriculture there would be no food. Had there not been land, there would not have been bricks and consequently no Assembly Chamber. I submit, Sir, that every Harijan, be he a cobbler or a tenant, should be provided with a suitable residential accommodation even if we have to forego our lands.

Sir, the division of the *Shamilat* (common land) would prove disadvantageous in two ways. Firstly, there would be no land left for grazing the cattle, and secondly, the Harijans will have to encounter great difficulties. I suggest that these lands should not be distributed but left as they were for the common use of the villagers. One thing more that I would like to suggest is that after the work of the Consolidation of Holdings is completed the zamindars should be allowed to water their fields by turns otherwise many disputes would arise out of the distribution of water.

Then Sir, the rainy season has set in. The Revenue Assistant in my district had issued instructions that all the cultivators should sow their lands. But, the Patwaris only allowed such persons to sow their fields as had given them Rs. 5 by way of illegal gratification.

Minister for Development : To which village is the hon. Member referring.

Shri Badlu Ram : This relates to Dhamar and some other villages.

Minister for Irrigation : My Munshi has arrived here only today and he says that not a single penny has been given to Patwaris in Dhamar.

Shri Badlu Ram : Another suggestion that I have to offer is with regard to the work of Consolidation of Holdings. In my ilaqa where this work has been started, the work of allotment of parcha numbers is being delayed. I am afraid this delay will adversely affect the cultivation of the kharif crop. I suggest Sir, that orders should be issued that where the work of Consolidation of Holdings has not been completed people should be allowed to sow their lands.

Minister of Development : It would be done accordingly.

Shri Gopi Chand (Pundri) (Hindi): Sir, it goes without saying that the prosperity of the Punjab depends upon the promotion of Agriculture in the State and also that 90 per cent of our population lives in the villages. As is obvious, in the villages, there is no other occupation for the people except agriculture. No industry is to be found there. Therefore, our Government should try its level best to develop agriculture as far as possible. For this, it is necessary that the people should receive education and training in the science of Agriculture. In the Schools, this subject should be taught from the 5th primary class to the 10th class, so that a boy should have attained sufficient knowledge of Agriculture by the time he passes his Matriculation Examination. Now the people of rural areas are fed up with education because of its being defective and one-sided. Generally, the boys receiving education from the Schools, become unsuitable after completion of their studies for working on the lands and thus they prove a source of worry to their parents. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that it should adopt adequate measures for an all-round education so that agriculture in the State develops along the right lines.

Then, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the speed and the manner in which the consolidation work is being carried on in the State. It is a matter of deep regret to find that corruption and inefficiency are rampant in this Department. I would request the hon. Minister Incharge to take immediate steps for the eradication of corruption in this Department with a view to bringing about the quick disposal of consolidation work. Similarly, the Rehabilitation Office, Karnal is the centre of corruption and lack of efficiency. There it is found that the Patwaris and Kanungos extract money from the illiterate villagers first and then attend to their work. Sir, the ruralites are illiterate and innocent people. They are not clever enough to know how to bribe these officials and get work out of them. I beg to submit, Sir, that the Government must eradicate corruption from the services and also take steps to improve their efficiency. Such an action is urgently called for to help the ruralities.

Then, Sir, I want to point out to the Government that the Irrigation Department is working in the most irresponsible manner. Generally, it is seen that the staff working on the canals, abruptly cut off the water supply and start removing mud from the channels of the canals at a time when the crops badly need watering. Sometimes it is found that there is no water at all in the canals when it is most needed for the crops.

[Shri Gopi Chand]

Further, in order to extract money from the poor Zamindars, they adopt the old tactics of tampering with the water outlets. Some times they increase their capacity of output of waters and some times they reduce it.

The next thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is towards the Grow More Food policy. The jeep meant for the Grow More Food drive is being misused by the consolidation officers in Karnal District. I made a reference to this fact in this House in my speech delivered during the last session. Now I again draw the attention of the Government towards it and request it to enquire into the matter and see that such a misuse of jeeps and corruption is checked. In the end I would again request the Government to take steps to raise the standard of efficiency of the services in all the Departments.

Shri Gorakh Nath : (Narot Jaimal Singh) (*Hindi*): Sir I may point out at the very outset that a proper development of Agriculture is most necessary for the prosperity of our country. I know that much has been said on the subject and certain hon. Members of this House have also made constructive suggestions in this regard. I, would also like to contribute my mite to the debate and add one or two more suggestions. I realise that due to short time placed at my disposal I would not be able to adduce facts and figures in support of the suggestions that I make.

I hope Sir, that all the hon. Members of this House agree that this Budget has been prepared in odd circumstances. The provisions made in it for various beneficent departments are disappointing as the decisions were taken without any planning. Therefore, it could not come up to the expectations of the people. I hope the Government will prepare its next budget after proper planning and after giving careful thought to every aspect of the expenditure. Under the circumstances, I request the hon. Members to make the best use of the provisions made in this Budget for the beneficent departments.

I suggest to the Government to utilize the provision of Rs. 3 lakhs made for Agricultural Education with the same sincerity of purpose and zeal with which the Benaras Hindu University had been started under very odd circumstances. It may be stated for the information of the Government that Benares University sent its students for practical training to many factories in India like the Attock Oil Company and others. There

the students were able to gain first hand knowledge of certain industries and the result was that the University achieved great success in imparting vocational training to the students. I therefore request the Government to take similar steps in regard to Agricultural Education even with the present provision for the time being.

Then, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the inefficiency prevalent in the staff working at the District Head-quarters. For instance, take the case of the Government Poultry Farms. There the eggs are sold at a higher rate than the market rate.

Even the farms are not being cultivated with any advantage. No profits are even shown. So far as the Officers of the Directorate are concerned, I suggest that their services should be utilized in the various Educational Centres where agricultural education is imparted to students. Some of them should also be asked to tour in the rural areas and enlighten the zamindars about the improved methods of cultivation. I think these steps will help our Grow More Food Campaign to a considerable extent. This is a very constructive suggestion as these officers are not able to manage the Government farms and it would be better if their learning is made use of by the educational institutions and the individual cultivators.

As far the bad management of farms I would like to cite the example of the Nilwan Village in my district, the land of this village was considered to be the best for purposes of cultivation. But even here though the cultivation was done by the Government with the help of tractors yet no profits could be shown, on the other hand there were huge losses as the price of the produce was much less than the expenditure which had been incurred. This illustrates the inefficiency of the Government officials and I think that the Ministers as also the Members of this Assembly should keep a vigilant eye over them. They should be given increments only if they show good work every year. And if they are found to be altogether incorrigible, they should be turned out.

I wish now to bring a very important thing to the notice of the Government. The part of the State, I hail from, comprises seven streams and 82 villages. The land of this place is proverbially fertile. A good crop here is a remedy for a famine of any magnitude in the State. But being near the border the place was deserted by its

[Shri Gorakh Nath]

inhabitants about a year ago, when there was a danger of ^{war} ~~even~~ breaking out ~~war~~ between India and Pakistan. Now the people have no doubt returned but such huge forests have grown in the meantime that it is not possible to cultivate the land there without the help of tractors. I request that the Government should be good enough to arrange the supply of tractors for this place. But here I have to say one thing more in this connection and it is this. The zamindars should be asked to pay only for the petrol that is consumed in the tractors and no extra charges should be realized from them as they are not in a position to pay them. And then steps should also be taken for the destruction of wild animals which are a very great danger to our crops. This place, I have already said, is near the border and it is not possible to kill these wild animals by the use of rifles as the firing of rifles is likely to create misunderstanding and bring about a clash between the Indian and Pakistan forces. But to my mind one thing is still possible. We can come to an understanding with the Pakistan Government and tell them that when there is a particular number of shots or less than that number, it should be understood that firing had taken place for killing the wild animals only and that it was not a hostile act.

Now a little about seeds. I think it is incumbent on the Government to supply good seeds to the cultivators as good crops can't be had without good seeds. It was really very good on the part of the Government to have supplied seed for "Chari" some time back but then it should not have been sold at rates higher than the control rates. I suggest that wherever higher prices have been charged refunds should be given by the Government.

My last submission is about manure. It is really a great pity that very large quantities of dung are burnt by our people. This dung which is usually considered useless is capable of producing great wealth for us. I think it would be in the fitness of things if some executive powers are given to the Agriculture Department to enable it to check people from burning dung. And if it is not possible to do it, prizes should be offered to those people who preserve large quantities of dung for the preparation of manure. Anyhow something should be done to stop the wastage of dung and the cattle urine as they can be used for preparing an ideal type of manure.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m., on Thursday, 3rd July, 1952.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

3rd July, 1952

VOLUME II—No. 12

OFFICIAL REPORT



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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

Thursday, the 3rd July, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Sir, as non-official business is to be transacted today, I shall request you to kindly dispense with the question hour.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members will have enough time for non-official business even without the question hour being dispensed with.

----- STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. -----

SUPPLEMENTARIES ON STARRED QUESTION No. 294.*

Shrimati Sita Devi : In reply to part (d) of the question, the hon. Minister stated that those employees of this Department who entered service before 1931 are in receipt of Provident Fund. Is it not a fact that a large number of employees of this Department, who joined service before 1930 are not getting any benefit of Provident Fund ?

Minister for Public Works : I want notice.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister stated that those who entered service before 31st December, 1930 are given the benefit of the Provident Fund under the rules. I want to know if he is not aware of the fact that in reality nobody in this Department is enjoying the benefit of this Fund.

Minister : The hon. Member's information is not correct.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In reply to part (e) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated that casual leave for twenty days in a year is allowed to these employees. Is it not a fact that leave is granted on the condition that the applicant supplies some substitute in his place ?

Minister : I have no knowledge about it because I assumed office only two and a half months back.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister has stated that he has no personal knowledge about it because he became a Minister only two and a half months ago. Could not the same Secretary who prepared the reply to the main question give him information which I am now asking ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

*Government's reply to question No. *294 appears in the proceedings of 2nd July, 1952.

REDUCTION IN THE FEES OF THE STUDENTS.

***239. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps the Government proposes to take to bring down the fees of the students to the old level ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The decision to raise fees was given effect to only last year and it is too early to judge if the step is in the best interests of the education of the State or not.

REDUCTION IN PRICES OF TEXT-BOOKS.

***240. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the steps Government proposes to take to reduce the prices of text-books ;

(b) when does the Government propose to enforce the aforesaid reduction ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) The Government has already taken steps to reduce the prices of text-books. The Schedule for price fixation adopted last year was calculated on the following basis ;

Hindi and Punjabi.—160 pages for a rupee.

English Text-Books.—100 pages for a rupee.

The Schedule has now been revised as follows :

Hindi and Punjabi.—180 pages for a rupee.

English Text-Books.—116 pages for a rupee.

This decision will effect 12 to 15 per cent reduction in prices of Text Books adopted this year.

Beside the above decision the books printed and published by the Government have been priced at rates which will mean a saving to the students from 30 to 33 per cent as compared to prices charged by private publishing concerns for books of equal volume and printed on the same quality of paper.

(b) The New Schedule of reduced prices has been enforced from this year.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It will be seen that the prices have not been fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule. Has the Government

made any arrangement for getting the prices checked in order to ensure that these have been fixed according to the Schedule ?

Minister : The prices are checked in the office and these are not more than those prescribed in the Schedule.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : A primer which was priced at As. 0-7-6 according to the old Schedule has now been priced at As. 3. It means that a reduction of 40 per cent has been effected. How can this difference between the prices be explained ?

Minister : This has been done in the case of the primer only. Its title page has been made simpler and the printing of one coloured picture on the title page and one inside the book has been stopped. In addition to this the space between the lines has been reduced. This is how this reduction has been effected.

**COMPLAINT AGAINST CH. SHRI CHAND HEAD MASTER
D. B. HIGH SCHOOL, SIHI.**

***299. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that an enquiry was conducted by the Education Department against the Head Master, D. B. High School, Sihi, on serious charges ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the case against him was proved and completed two months back ;

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Enquiry is yet incomplete.

(b) Does not arise,

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated in reply to part (a) of the question that the enquiry has been completed. May I know.....

Minister : I said that the enquiry was incomplete.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister state as to when he received the report in this connection ?

Minister : I want notice.

**ADMISSION REFUSED TO FAILED STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT
HIGH SCHOOL, PALWAL.**

***300. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that scores of those students who failed in the Matriculation Examination from the Government High School, Palwal, were refused admission to their old school ;

(b) whether the refusal to readmit such students is in accordance with the rules of the Department, if not, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, if the number of pupils in a class or section exceeds that for which accommodation is available or when the addition of section is not possible for want of funds. The case regarding the school in question is under enquiry. However, general instructions to admit failed students in the institutions from which they appeared have been issued.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that there are still a large number of such students who have been refused admission ?

Minister : If the hon. Member brings some specific case to my notice, I shall enquire about it.

— — — —

PURCHASE OF AEROPLANES FOR TOURING PURPOSES.

***148. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aeroplanes purchased by the Government for touring purposes in the State ;

(b) the date of purchase of each of these aeroplanes ;

(c) the total cost incurred by the Government for the purchase of these aeroplanes ;

(d) the total expenses involved for the maintenance, petrol, repairs and other running charges etc., during the period of retention of these aeroplanes ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the aeroplanes have been sold ; if so, when, and the sale price of each aeroplane ;

(f) the names of the Ministers and other Government officers who travelled by these aeroplanes during the period of retention of these aeroplanes ;

(g) the total number of miles travelled by each of the persons referred to in part (f) above ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Two.

(b) 18th October 1948.

(c) Rs. 81,390 (including delivery charges Rs. 1,390).

(d) Rs. 95,000.

(e) No. Two aircraft were presented to the Northern India Flying Club, Jullundur Cantt., during July, 1951. No price was recovered.

(f) Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargva, Chief Minister.

S. Swaran Singh, Minister.

Ch. Lahri Singh, Minister.

Giani Kartar Singh, Minister.

S. Joginder Singh Mann, Minister.

Shri J. M. Shrinagesh, Commissioner, Jullundur Division.

Shri P. L. Verma, Secretary, P. W. D.,

Shri S. D. Midha, Officiating Commissioner, Jullundur Division.

S. Nawab Singh, I. C. S., Commissioner, Ambala Division.

S. Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, Government of India.

Shri Mehar Chand Khanna, Ministry of Relief & Rehabilitation, Government of India.

(g) Total 40,000 miles. The exact mileage in case of each person cannot be given as one of the planes is under repairs at Bhopal and Log Books are not available. The information supplied is approximate.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the considerations and terms on which the two planes were handed over to the Northern India Flying Club ?

Chief Minister : I require a fresh notice to answer this question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, when it is stated that the planes were handed over to the Northern India Flying Club, the Chief Minister is naturally expected to know the considerations and terms on which the planes were handed over to the said Club ?

Chief Minister : I also expect the hon. Member to listen attentively to what I said in my reply to the original question. I stated therein that no price was recovered.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Were there any specific terms on which these planes were given ?

Mr. Speaker : Please sit down. Your supplementary question does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of Order, Sir. When supplementary question arises out of the reply given by the Minister, the Member has the right to put that question. You are acting in a dictatorial manner by not allowing the Members to put relevant supplementary questions and instead asking them to sit down.

Mr. Speaker : You should not behave like this. If you repeat this, I am afraid I will have to take stern action against you.

CASES OF CORRUPTION IN THE STATE.

***317. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of persons against whom complaints of corruption were received during the year 1951—52 in the State and the action taken on those complaints ;

(b) the number of cases in which inquiries were made together with the result of enquiry in each case ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) and (b) It is regretted that the required information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the benefits accruing from it. Information regarding action taken against corrupt government servants in the State during the calendar year 1951, in so far as it is available with the Government, is detailed in the statement given below. The number of pending cases at the end of the year is also shown therein.

<i>Decided Cases</i>		<i>Non-Gazetted</i>	<i>Gazetted</i>
Convicted	...	7	...
Fined	...	1	...
Services terminated	...	294	7
Censured	...	8	...
Reverted	...	19	6
Retired compulsorily	..	4	4
Increment stopped	...	11	2
Reduced in the time-scale	...	2	1
Approved service forfeited	...	3	..
Debarred from promotion	...	1	...
Permitted to resign	..	5	...
Minor Punishments	...	9	2
<i>Pending cases</i>			
Pending in Court	...	33	2
Pending departmental inquiry	...	45	12
Pending with the Police	...	12	1
Pending with the S.I.A.	...	3	10

CASES OF BREACH OF JAIL DISCIPLINE IN THE STATE.

*336. **Sardar Darshan Singh** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of cases of breach of jail discipline in the State during the year 1951—52, together with such of them as related to the use of tobacco and tea only ;

(b) whether any class of prisoners is allowed to sleep in the open space in the summer in the jail compound ;

(c) whether any class of prisoners is classified in the jails as ' Political Prisoners ' ; if so, what extra amenities are provided to such prisoners ;

(d) whether the diet allowances of prisoners in class ' B ' in jails have been reduced in recent years ; if so, why and by how much ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Number of cases of breach of jail discipline in the State during the year 1951—52	...	3,860
(including cases relating to the use of tobacco	...	455
and tea	...	222

[Chief Minister]

(b) No class of prisoners is allowed to sleep in the open space in the summer in the jail compounds.

(c) No separate class of political prisoners is recognised in the jails.

(d) The Punjab (India) Government, *vide* correction slip No. 254 to paragraph 920 (Page 341) of the Punjab Jail Manual, received with their letter No. 13033—JJ—51/6246, dated the 29th November 1951, reduced the scale of diet for 'B' class prisoners, in respect of the following two articles for the reasons noted against each :—

Class of prisoners	Name of article	Former Scale	Reduced scale in force at present	Reasons for reduction
'A' & 'B' class prisoners accustomed to eastern mode of living	Ghee	1½ Chk. daily	1 Chk. daily	The former scale was considered excessive by the Punjab Jails Reforms Committee <i>vide</i> para 229 of their report which view was accepted by Government.
do. (Meat Eaters)	Meat	4 Chks. in lieu of 6 chks. of milk allowed daily on 5 days of the week	3 Chks meat in lieu of 6 chks. of milk allowed daily on 5 days of the week	do.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is the Government prepared to allow to the prisoners the facility of sleeping in the open in summer ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

ELECTRICITY IN CITY KOTWALI, JULLUNDUR.

*337. **Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no electricity in City Kotwali, Jullundur not even in lock-ups ;

(b) the number of handpumps in the City Kotwali, Jullundur for use by prisoners, constables, officers and traffic staff and the average number of prisoners, constables, officers and traffic staff respectively per handpump ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Electric installation exists in the office room of City Kotwali, Jullundur. Administrative approval for providing electric installation in three barracks and lock-up in City Kotwali was accorded in January 1952.
- (b) There are two handpumps in City Kotwali. One is meant for the use of family quarters and the other for constables, prisoners and men of traffic staff.

**ABOLITION OF THE POSTS OF WATERMEN IN POLICE STATIONS
AND LOCK UPS IN THE STATE.**

***338. Sardar Darshan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of watermen in Police Stations and lock-ups in the State have been abolished ; if so, the alternative arrangements made by the Government to supply drinking water to prisoners and to the lock-up staff ;

(b) whether any arrangements exist for prisoners in police lock-ups to take their baths and to wash their clothes ;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the food supplied to prisoners in Kotwali and Sadar Lock-ups in Ludhiana contains not more than 1½ chhataks of cereal per meal ; if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) No.

(b) No separate arrangements exist but facilities are provided to take baths and wash clothes if a request is made. Generally, the necessity for such things does not arise as the undertrials are sent to the Judicial Lock-ups after 24 hours of police custody.

(c) Four loaves weighing about 5 chhataks are supplied to each of the prisoners in Police Stations Sadar and Kotwali, Ludhiana, per meal. Government have sanctioned annas eight per diem for all prisoners.

ACCOMMODATION IN JAILS IN THE STATE.

*341 **Sardar Chanan Singh** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the available accommodation in all the jails in the State in the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 ;

(b) the average and the highest population in all the jails of the State in the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and first six months of 1952 ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some jails of the State, the population is double or nearly so of that permissible under the rules, resulting in deterioration in sanitary conditions ;

(d) whether any report or recommendations have been submitted by the Government Committee on Jail Reforms and whether they have been published ;

(e) whether any action has so far been taken by the Government on any such report or recommendations ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
(a) Available accommodation in the jails of the State during the year.	5,338	5,338	5,338	5,338	5,793
(b) (i) Average population in all the jails of the State during the year.	6,418	7,735	7,254	7,090	7,515 (representing average population of all jails for the 5 months of 1952.)
(ii) Highest population in all the jails of the State on any day during the year.	12,330	10,942	7,772	7,840	7,922
(c) Yes. Overcrowding must naturally result in the deterioration of sanitary conditions but adequate measures are always taken to keep the sanitation of the jails upto the required standard. It is owing to these measures that no epidemic has appeared in any jail.					

- (d) Yes. The report of the East Punjab Jail Reforms Committee, 1948-49, appointed by Government and containing their recommendations was printed in the year 1950.
- (e) The recommendations of the Jail Reforms Committee referred to in part (d) above, were divided into 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' categories according to their importance and urgency. Almost all the recommendations in 'A' category, the implementation of which involved no expenditure or nominal expenditure have been accepted and implemented. Recommendations in other categories have either been accepted or are under consideration of the Government.

APPLICATION OF MASTER TARA SINGH FOR PASSPORT FOR
UNITED KINGDOM.

*353. **Sardar Gopal Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Master Tara Singh, the Akali Leader, applied for a passport for the United Kingdom in September 1951, if so, the action taken thereon ; if not the reason therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

1. Yes.
2. The case is under the consideration of Government.

Sardar Gopal Singh : For how long shall it remain under consideration ? Nine months have already elapsed.

Chief Minister : It is not always necessary that such a matter should take 9 months ; it may take eleven months in some cases. (*Laughter.*)

ARMS LICENCES IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

*355. **Sardar Gopal Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of persons who are holding licences for keeping revolvers and guns separately in the Ludhiana District ;
- (b) the names of licencees whose licences have been cancelled during the last one year in the said district ;
- (c) the number of persons together with their names who have been given revolver licences in Ludhiana District during the last one year?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a, b and c) It is not in public interest to disclose the total number of arms licencees and to give the names of those whose licences have been cancelled or who have been granted revolver licences. If, however, it is intended to draw the attention of Government to any particular case this may be done by letter when the complaint, if any, will be looked into.

Sardar Gopal Singh : What harm does the Government fear if it gives names ?

Chief Minister : There are quite a number of considerations for not doing so.

**SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LITIGANTS IN COURTS
AT LUDHIANA.**

***383 *Dewan Jagdish Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the average number of litigants attending the District Courts at Ludhiana per day ;

(b) whether there exist in the court compounds any arrangements for the seating and shelter of the litigants ; if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) About 300.

(b) The litigants sit on cemented benches fixed at various places in the court compound, in the verandahs of the court rooms, on grassy plots and in two sheds, which afford adequate room and protection against sun and rainy weather.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the State Government has made any arrangements for providing seating accommodation and drinking water to the litigants attending the District Courts at Ludhiana ?

Chief Minister : I would like to give a general reply to this question. I have not the slightest hesitation in admitting that the arrangements as they exist at present are not satisfactory. The State Government would very much like to improve these arrangements but due to paucity of funds the Government is helpless and cannot do anything at present.

**PAYMENT OF JAGIRS OF CERTAIN PEPSU VILLAGES MERGED
INTO LUDHIANA DISTRICT.**

***275. Sardar Ajmer Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the reasons why the Jagirs of the villages, which belonged to P.E.P.S.U. but were merged into Ludhiana District on 26th January, 1950, have not been paid so far to the Jagirdars concerned ;

(b) whether the Government intends to pay the Jagirs ; if so, when ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) The term for which this Jagir was granted and the conditions of the grant attached to it are not traceable so far.

(b) Patiala and East Punjab States Union Government have been requested to supply the required information with necessary record. Payment will be made, if due, when all the material, referred to in (a) above, is available.

NILOKHERI COMMUNITY PROJECT.

303. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the number and names of villages included in the Community Project block at Nilokheri ;

(b) the number and names of villages included in the two Community Projects blocks at Faridabad ;

(c) the date of launching of these projects ;

(d) the total amount to be spent on these projects in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) For the present, one block of about 130 villages around Nilokheri. The names of the villages selected for this purpose are given in the statement.*

(b) The question of taking up villages around Faridabad for development under the Community Projects Scheme is yet under consideration in consultation with the Government of India.

(c) A survey of the villages around Nilokheri has started since the 2nd week of June, 1952.

*Placed in the library.

[Minister for Development]

(d) According to the model scheme prepared by the Government of India, the estimated expenditure on one Community Project, comprising 3 development blocks of about 300 villages, is Rs. 65 lakhs, spread over a period of 3 years.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Will the Development Minister be pleased to state the criterion on which the villages for the Community Projects have been selected ?

Minister : A radius has been fixed in which about 100 villages are taken for one block.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Has a separate estimate for Nilokheri project been prepared by the State Government ?

Minister : No, the estimate will be approximately the same for every block.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not taking over the Faridabad blocks ?

Minister : This matter is under the consideration of the Government of India and if they offer this project, we will take it over.

REPRESENTATION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF BEIT ILAQA,
DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

***340. Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether a representation signed by 411 persons has been received by the Government from residents of Beit Ilqa, District Ludhiana, suggesting measures for provision of more land for the tenants, requesting grant of taccavi loans and making concrete suggestions for increased production in the Ilqa ; if so, the action if any, taken by the Government on the above representation ?

Sardar Partap Singh Karion : No representation signed by 411 persons was received from the residents of Beit Ilqa, Ludhiana District.

ENFORCEMENT OF SECTION 4 OF THE CHOS ACT IN UNA TEHSIL.

***396 Rai Hari Chand :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state, whether that in view of the hardships to the public and the discontentment prevailing among them by the enforcement of section 4 of the Chos Act in Una Tehsil, the Government intends to withdraw it ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron : Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act as a whole has not been applied to the Una Tehsil of Hoshiarpur District. The restrictions imposed in the Una Tehsil apply to the herding of goats and camels kept for trade and breeding purposes. The villagers are permitted to keep stall-fed goats and camels for their domestic use after obtaining permit from the Divisional Forest Officer, Hoshiarpur Forest Division. Permits to keep 5,065 goats and 90 camels have already been issued. As such no hardship is caused to the public.

The restrictions were imposed in the interest of soil conservation and so long as the condition of chos does not improve, Government regret they have no intention to permanently withdraw these, but some more time has been given to the people affected to dispose of their excess animals and during that time they have been asked through their representatives to settle conditions with the Government in a way that their hardships may be reduced and public good expected from the work may not suffer.

Sardar Chanan Singh : The answer given by the hon. Minister is a pure lie (*Jhut.*)

Mr. Speaker : You cannot use the word '*Jhut.*' It is unparliamentary.

Sardar Chanan Singh : I meant to say that the answer given by the hon. Minister is totally wrong.

Minister : I will make enquiries and if the reply is found to be wrong, I shall take action against the officers responsible for it.

SCHEME OF PROVIDING PUMPING SUBSIDY TO NEEDY ZAMINDARS.

*397. **Rai Hari Chand :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government will include Una Tehsil in the scheme of providing pumping subsidy to the needy Zamindars ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The Government of India have decided that all Grow More Food funds should be utilized only in intensive cultivation areas selected by this State and approved by them. As Una Tehsil does not fall under this category, this Tehsil cannot be included in the scheme for the distribution of pumping sets as taccavi loans.

CANALISING THE SWAN IN UNA TEHSIL.

***398. Rai Hari Chand :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has considered the advisability of canalizing the Swan in Una Tehsil ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) No.

(b) The Swan in Una Tehsil is outside the irrigation boundary and its canalizing has never been considered.

REDUCTION IN ABIANA RATE.

***241. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the steps Government proposes to take to bring down the abiana rate to the old level ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The Government has not had time to study the question in all its bearings during the short time at its disposal since the assumption of office. The action to be taken will depend on the conclusions arrived at as a result of the examination of this question.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO WESTERN JUMNA CANAL BY ASSOCIATED TUBEWELLS.

***346. Professor Sher Singh :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) the quantity of water promised to be supplied by the Associated Tubewells to the Western Jumna Canal through Tubewells by the end of this year ;

(b) the number of such tubewells that have been constructed so far, and the approximate quantity of water thrown in the canal by these tubewells ;

(c) the length of time which the firm will take to construct the required number of tubewells ;

(d) the causes of delay in the work, if any, and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such delay in future.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) 450 cusecs.

(b) 26 Tubewells have been drilled and drilling of 5 more is in progress. These are at different stages of completion.

No Tubewell has started working.

(c) The firm hopes to complete all by 31st March 1953.

(d) The progress has been slow due to initial difficulties of obtaining necessary equipment and drilling staff by the firm.

No action can be taken till after the stipulated date of completion when penalty will be charged. The firm is being pressed and further guarantee is being taken to complete the work in time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Minister for Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the reasons for not starting the pumping of water from the 26 tubewells which have been completed ?

Minister : I think the hon. Member has not understood the reply which I gave just now. I said that these tubewells were at different stages of completion.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does the hon. Minister mean to say that not a single tubewell has been completed as yet ?

Minister : That is what I said in my reply.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has any security been deposited by the Associated Tubewells Co. with the Punjab Government ?

Minister : I want notice to answer this question.

Shri Ranjit Singh : By not giving this simple information the hon. Minister has only betrayed his poor knowledge about the working of the department under his charge.

Mr. Speaker : You should withdraw these remarks.

Shri Ranjit Singh : I withdraw my remarks.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister for Power and Irrigation be pleased to state whether in view of the slow progress the said company has made so far in the construction of tubewells the State Government is confident that it will be able to complete its work within the scheduled time, i. e., in 9 months, more ?

Minister : Yes. We are most hopeful. Moreover, the Company has given a guarantee.

DEPOSITING OF MONEY BY ZAMINDARS FOR SMALL IRRIGATION
PROJECTS IN THE STATE.

***347. Shri Sher Singh :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) the percentage of the expenditure to be deposited by Zamindars for small irrigation projects meant for extending minors or constructing new sub-minors in the State ;

(b) whether the Government have revised their previous decision, if so, why ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) Originally the Government of India proposed that minor irrigation schemes be taken up on the following basis :

(i) 25 per cent of the total cost should be paid by Zamindars.

(ii) 37½% will be paid by Government of India as subsidy.

(iii) Remaining 37½% should be contributed by the State Government.

(b) Yes. As Government of India has now stopped payment of 37½% as subsidy therefore the Zamindars have been asked to pay 62½% which will be adjusted against the Betterment Fee to be charged on completion.

OPENING OF NEW LIQUOR SHOPS AND CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM
AND LIQUOR IN THE STATE.

***150. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any new liquor shops were opened in the State during the years 1950—51 and 1951—52 ;

(b) the total quantity of liquor, foreign and country-made, respectively, consumed in each of the districts during the aforesaid period ;

(c) the total quantity of opium consumed in each of the districts of the State during the aforesaid period ;

(d) the total revenue received by the Government on account of the sale of liquor and opium, respectively, during the aforesaid period ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh :

	1950—51	1951—52
(a)	Nil	One

(b) and (c) Statements 'A' and 'B' giving the required information are given below.

	1950—51	1951—52
	Rs.	Rs.
(d) (i) Liquor ...	1,36,56,554	1,57,52,157
(ii) Opium ...	87,73,030	99,44,859

STATEMENT 'A'

Showing the total quantity of liquor, foreign and country-made consumed in each of the districts for the years 1950—51 and 1951—52.

Serial No.	Name of district.	Foreign liquor consumed.		Country liquor consumed	
		1950—51 L. P. gallons	1951—52 L. P. gallons	1950—51 L. P. gallons	1951—52 L. P. gallons
1	Hissar ...	4,690	7,719	6,802	6,036
2	Rohtak ...	2	13·3	...	...
3	Gurgaon ...	875	1,839	5,491	5,672
4	Karnal ..	1,251	847	6,516	5,978
5	Ambala ..	22,611	33,703	20,727	19,566
6	Simla ...	7,527	7,534	3,806	3,472
7	Kangra ...	2,982	5,991	11,820	6,726
8	Hoshiarpur ..	1,234	1,811	15,899	16,484
9	Jullundur ..	14,596	6,665	17,795	14,826
10	Ludhiana ..	9,322	11,941	30,269	29,330
11	Ferozepore ..	7,431	12,759	46,090	43,951
12	Amritsar ..	14,432	46,392	35,994	33,053
13	Gurdaspur ..	9,791	8,667	15,542	15,835

[Minister for Labour]

STATEMENT 'B'

Showing the total quantity of opium consumed in each of the districts of the State during the years 1950—51 and 1951—52.

Serial No.	Name of district	Opium consumed during the years	
		1950—51 seers	1951—52 seers
1	Hissar	773	695
2	Rohtak	276	249
3	Gurgaon	299	264
4	Karnal	383	343
5	Ambala	1,070	959
6	Simla	47	41
7	Kangra	185	135
8	Hoshiarpur	855	733
9	Jullundur	1,141	839
10	Ludhiana	1,824	1,432
11	Ferozepore	3,722	2,771
12	Amritsar	3,354	2,404
13	Gurdaspur	718	497

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It appears from the statement which has been supplied to me that in 1950-51 the consumption of liquor in Amritsar was 14432 gallons whereas in 1951-52 it was of the order of 46392 gallons, which represents an increase of 300 per cent. Similarly in the case of Gurgaon, the consumption of liquor has increased by 120 per cent and in several other districts the increase has varied from 50 to 60 per cent. When the Government is fully aware of this abnormal increase in the consumption of liquor, what steps has it taken to keep its consumption within normal limits ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is a seasoned parliamentarian. I do not know why he should put such irrelevant supplementary questions. He wanted certain facts and figures which have been furnished to him. How does his supplementary question as to what steps the Government has taken to check this rise in consumption arise out of the main question ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, the reply given by the Government reveals a serious state of affairs. Since the Government is committed to the policy of prohibition, I wanted to know what steps it has taken to check this abnormal increase in the consumption of liquor.

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry. I cannot agree with the hon. Member. He should resume his seat.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN AND GIRLS.

***297. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of abducted women and girls recovered from Pakistan and Indian Union since 1947 up to 1st June 1952 ;

(b) the monthly average of such recovery in Pakistan and the Indian Union ;

(c) the annual expenditure on the agency employed for the recovery of abducted women in the Indian Union.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 8,155 from Pakistan and 16,723 from India, according to the statements of recovery statistics, received by the Government, from the Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service, New Delhi, an office subordinate to the Government of India.

(b) 151 in Pakistan and 310 in India, according to the figures at (a) above.

(c) Recovery of abducted persons being the responsibility of the Central Government the required information is not available with the State Government.

CLAIMS OF URBAN REFUGEES IN THE STATE.

***367 Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government is corresponding with the Government of India regarding the claims of the urban refugees ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : The hon. Member may be aware that the Government of India had initiated a scheme for giving compensation to displaced persons who owned immovable evacuee property in urban areas in Pakistan and for this purpose the Displaced Persons (Verification of Claims) Act,

[Minister for Finance]

1950 was passed and machinery was set up for verifying the claims of displaced persons. Later the Government of India took steps to evaluate urban evacuee property left by Muslims in India, and the two schemes have already made considerable progress. The Punjab Government, at the recent meetings of the Joint Rehabilitation Board held in Simla in May, 1952 impressed upon the representatives of the Government of India that the payment of compensation should be expedited and that the delay was causing frustration among displaced persons.

LEVY OF PROFESSION TAX.

***242. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state as to when does the Government propose to relieve the burden of poor labouring classes by withdrawing the levy of Profession Tax in the State ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Government have prescribed a new model schedule for Profession Tax whereby persons following certain professions fetching low income have been grouped together and assessed at a flat rate of Rs. 3 per annum. It is not intended to abolish Profession Tax as that would seriously affect finances of District Boards, which require to be strengthened.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the Profession Tax causes a great hardship to the unskilled labourers ; if so when is it proposed to abolish it ?

Minister for Public Works : So far as my information goes, this tax is not recoverable from the unskilled labourers.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that all the petty shop keepers are required to pay the Profession Tax ?

Minister for Public Works : Every shopkeeper is liable to pay this tax as he has some profession. The tax varies according to the income.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that petty shopkeepers have not sufficient income to justify the levy of this tax ?

Mr. Speaker : I cannot permit the hon. Minister to reply to this question. This is not a suplemenatry question. It does not arise at all.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN DISTRICT BOARD GURGAON.

*301. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the case of embezzlement of over Rs. 12,000 in the accounts of D. B. Gurgaon was brought to the notice of the Government by Members of this House ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sum was shown as deposited on or about the date of the complaint, after a period of over two months ;

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise. If any case is brought to notice, Government will inquire into it.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : On what date was the amount of the embezzled money recovered ?

Minister for Local Government : This does not arise. In this question it had been asked whether this case came to the notice of the Government or not and I have replied to it.

DISTRICT ENGINEER IN DISTRICT BOARD GURGAON.

*302. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the rules a Civil Engineering degree or its equivalent is essential for the post of a District Engineer ; if so the qualifications possessed by the District Engineer in the service of the District Board, Gurgaon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

(a) Yes, but Government can appoint an engineer who does not possess such qualifications *vide* rule 10 of the District Works Rules, 1926

(b) He is a Diploma holder of Hewett Engineering School, Lucknow. On account of his adequate experience in design and construction of buildings and roads work in the District Board and in the Military Department, the State Buildings and Roads Department considered him suitable for the post of the District Engineer, although he did not possess the required technical qualifications.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : What are the reasons for which the Government accepted the recommendation of the District Board ?

Minister : This question does not arise. He was sent there after consulting the District Board. The Engineering Department had recommended him and the Government had to agree to it.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Were there some other candidates with higher qualifications who wanted to be considered for this job ?

Minister : No. There was no other candidate.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Does the Government always accept recommendations of the District Boards ?

Minister : The Government accepts the reasonable recommendations.

**REGISTRATION OF CASES OF ADULTERATION OF MILK AND
OTHER FOODSTUFFS BY THE POLICE IN THE STATE.**

***362. Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of cases of adulteration of milk and other food-stuffs registered by the Police in the year 1951-52 in the State ;

(b) the total number of cases in which convictions were secured and the total amount of fine realised during the above mentioned period ;

(c) whether any persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, if so, their number ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) 3,429 prosecutions were launched in courts by Food Inspectors. Such cases are not registered with the Police.

(b) Convictions—2,096
Fine realised —Rs. 2,40,727.

(c) Yes. 135.

PURCHASE OF CARS FOR THE MINISTERS.

***62 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of cars purchased by the Government for the use of Ministers in the State ;

(b) the price paid for these cars ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Seven

(b) Rs. 1,31,674-15-0. A further sum of Rs. 335-2-6 is yet to be paid.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did the Government satisfy itself that the rates at which these cars were purchased were the lowest ?

Chief Minister : These cars were purchased by a Government Department after proper verification of prices.

**PROVINCIALISATION OF SCHOOLS RUN BY LOCAL BODIES
IN THE STATE.**

***149. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government has considered the advisability of provincialisation of the schools of all the Local Bodies in the State ; if so, the result thereof ;

(b) whether any local bodies were consulted on the subject ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) The matter is under the consideration of the Government at present ;

(b) A few Deputy Commissioners were consulted who happened to be also the Chairmen of the District Boards.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What was the opinion of these bodies about the provincialization of Schools ?

Minister : Some were in favour of the scheme while others were against it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How much time will the Government take in provincializing these schools ?

Minister : I require notice for replying to this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister aware of the replies given by the members of the Committees of the District Boards which had been formed for considering the question of the provincialization of schools ?

Minister : Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government has decided not to provincialize the District Board Schools because it has not got necessary funds for this purpose ?

Minister : No. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

NATIONALIZATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT IN THE STATE.

***243 Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of motor transport routes in the State which have been nationalized so far ;

(b) the amount invested in the enterprise so far and that which is going to be invested ;

(c) the number of transport companies which were operating on these routes before nationalization and the alternative routes which have been given to them ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Government Transport Services are running on 48 routes including local and suburban routes.

(b) The total capital investment up to 31st March, 1952 was Rs. 38,14,959. During the current year, provision has been made for capital expenditure of Rs. 28,54,000.

(c) The number of transport companies operating on these routes before nationalization was 13 and the number of the alternative routes given to them was 54.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : What considerations guided the Government in the selection of these routes ?

Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

Sardar Chanan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that the Government gave 54 alternate routes to the companies. Will he kindly state the number of Transport Companies who wanted permits to operate on these routes ?

Minister : The question does not arise.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS OF TEXT BOOKS IN THE STATE.

***318. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the names of authors and publishers of text books prescribed for the first, second and third primary classes and fifth and sixth secondary classes in the State ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The lists showing the names of authors and publishers are laid on the Table*.

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BEDS IN GOVERNMENT
HOSPITAL AMRITSAR AND STUDENTS IN THE MEDICAL
COLLEGE, AMRITSAR.

***319. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is proposed to increase the number of beds in the Government Hospital, Amritsar and consequently to increase the number of students for admission to the Medical College, Amritsar ?

Shri Jagat Narain : No.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government not felt the necessity of increasing the number of students who can be admitted to the Medical College, Amritsar ?

Chief Minister : May I with your permission draw the attention of the hon. Lady Member to the fact that a definite reply has been given by the Minister. If she is not satisfied with the reply, she can comment on it during the course of the debate.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO THE VILLAGES
SURROUNDING SALHAWAS.

***345. Shri Sher Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps proposed by the Government to supply water for drinking to the villages surrounding Salhawas, District Rohtak, where during summer every year either there is practically no water in the wells or if there is any that is undrinkable ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The proposals for the supply of drinking water to the villages surrounding Salhawas (District Rohtak) have been under the consideration of Government for some years, but in view of the prohibitive

*Kept in the library.

[Minister for Education]

cost involved and the proposed extensions of irrigation system as a result of the construction of the Bhakra canals, the scheme for drinking water supply has been withheld, until proposals for the canal extension system take a final shape.

INCOME FROM PRIVATE WARDS IN CIVIL HOSPITALS.

***366. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the percentage of the income accruing on account of Private Wards in Civil Hospitals shared by the doctors in the State ;

(b) the rules allowing such a share ; if any ;

(c) whether the efficiency of the hospitals does not suffer by allowing such a share ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Fees for Bacteriological and Pathological work, X-Ray Skiagram, and Electrical Treatment charged from patients under treatment in Private Wards in the Civil Hospitals in the Punjab are shared between Government and the medical officers concerned, in the ratio of 40 and 60 per cent, respectively. Visiting, Operation and confinement fees charged from such patients are not shared by Government, but are retained in full by the medical officers concerned.

(b) The levy of fees for different purposes is governed by rules contained in Appendix LIII and its Annexures I to III of the Punjab Medical Manual.

(c) No.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY THE DISTRICT TRADE UNION CONGRESS, AMRITSAR.

***344. Sardar Achhar Singh :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a representation was made to him on April 24, 1952, when he visited Amritsar, by the Amritsar District Trade Union Congress, urging the Government to restore the cut in the wages of the textile workers, to reinstate the retrenched workers and to grant them unemployment allowances and suggesting concrete measures to keep the factories working ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Yes. The matter is under consideration of Government.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state as to how much time the Government will take to consider the matter.

Minister : It is not in public interest to disclose this information.

CORRUPTION CASES AGAINST GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN THE STATE.

***66. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of cases of corruption against Government servants, brought to the notice of Government during the year 1951—52 in the State ;

(b) the action, if any, so far taken by the Government in these cases ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) & (b) It is regretted that the required information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the benefits accruing from it. Information regarding action taken against corrupt Government servants in the State during the calendar year 1951, in so far as it is available with Government is detailed in the statement given below. The number of pending cases at the end of the year is also shown therein.

Nature of punishment	Non-Gazetted	Gazetted
<i>Decided cases</i>		
Convicted ..	7	..
Fined ..	1	..
Services Terminated ...	294	7
Censured ...	8	..
Reverted ..	19	6
Retired Compulsorily ...	4	4
Increment stopped ..	11	2
Reduced in the time scale of pay ..	2	1
Approved service forfeited ...	3	..
Debarred from promotion ..	1	..
Permitted to resign ..	5	..
Minor Punishments ..	9	2
<i>Pending Cases</i>		
Pending in Court ..	33	2
Pending Departmental inquiry ..	48	11
Pending with the Police ..	12	1
Pending with the S.I.A. ...	3	10

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state if the Government is prepared to refer cases of corruption to a Special Tribunal if such cases are brought to its notice ?

Chief Minister : May I Sir, with your permission repeat the reply which I have just now given. The hon. Member's question relates to the number of cases of corruption against Government servants which were brought to the notice of the Government during the year 1951-52 and I have given the reply that the required information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the benefits accruing from it. In view of this reply, I think that the hon. Member's question does not arise.

BORDER INCIDENTS IN THE STATE.

***67. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of border incidents which took place on the border between East and West Punjab during the year 1951-52;

(b) the loss of life and property as a result of these incidents ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 18.

(b) (i) one.

(ii) 106 heads of cattle.

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES IN THE STATE.

***245. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

(a) When the elections to Local Bodies (District Boards, Municipal Committees and Small Town Committees) are proposed to be held in the State;

(b) the qualifications of voters for these elections;

(c) the date when the new electoral rolls will be ready ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

(a) Earnest efforts are being made to hold elections to most of the Locals Bodies during the current year.

(b) All voters for elections to the Legislative Assembly will be electors of Local Bodies.

- (c) Does not arise because electoral rolls for the Legislative Assembly have been adopted for elections to Local Bodies.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of the new electoral rolls being prepared in certain urban areas, will the Minister for Local-Government be pleased to state whether the waiting lists will be adopted for elections to Municipal Committees ?

Minister : The old electoral lists will be adopted in the ensuing Municipal elections.

Sardar Chanan Singh : May I know the month in which these elections are to be held ?

Minister : Elections to the Local Bodies may be held sometime between October and December this year.

FUNDS FOR POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

***259 Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any funds have been earmarked for payment to Political Sufferers in the State; if so, how much;

(b) the terms on which the payment is to be made, the procedure by which list of beneficiaries is to be prepared and the amount to be determined;

(c) the date from which the payment is to be made ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) A fund (called National Workers Relief Fund for the present) has been constituted to provide relief to the poor, destitute and needy, particularly those persons or the families of those persons who suffered during or on account of the struggle for the national liberation, either by long incarceration resulting in loss of health or professions or for loss of property. Government contributed a sum of Rs. 30,000 to the fund in 1951-52. Provision has also been made in the current year's budget for a contribution of Rs. 50,000.

(b) The rules governing the constitution of the fund are under the consideration of Government.

(c) Payments will be made after the finalisation of the rules.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of the statement made by the Chief Minister that political sufferers will be treated at par with the ex-soldiers in the matter of compensation, will he be pleased to state whether similar facilities and amenities be given to the political sufferers as have been given to the ex-soldiers ?

Chief Minister : I think so.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government intends to refund the fines recovered from inhabitants of certain villages ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise out of the main question.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state as to what concessions have been given to the ex-soldiers during the last five years ?

Chief Minister : Does this question arise, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : It does not.

Captain Ranjit Singh : I think it does arise, Sir.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : According to the provision made in the Budget a sum of Rs. 5 hundred will be given to every ex-soldier. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether similar amounts will be given to the political sufferers ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a request for action.

Chief Minister : Sir, before we proceed further, it is my duty as Leader of the House to bring to your notice the conduct of a Member who waved his hand in a manner which amounts to ridiculing the Chair. Even if that hon Member is politically connected with me, I shall not protect him when he has insulted the Chair.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member should express regret for having behaved in a manner to which even the Leader of the House has objected.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Sir, when the Chief Minister could not answer a very simple question, of mine, I gave him "*Salam*" and said "*Achha Sahib*" I waved my hand for that purpose. Probably, the Leader of the House thinks that by doing so, I ridiculed the Chair. But actually, Sir, I waved my hand in "*Salam*" to the Leader of the House and not to the Chair. As such I do not think that I have insulted the Chair.

Mr. Speaker : This is still worse. You should withdraw it.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Sir, I did not mean to insult anybody but if you think that it was meant for the Chair, I am very sorry. It should not be taken in that light but if it is so taken, I most respectfully withdraw that gesture.

Mr. Speaker : While I thank the hon. Member for withdrawing it, I must tell him that even an exchange of gestures between two Members means an insult to the Chair.

PREVENTION OF HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES BILL

Mr. Speaker : The question hour being over, now we come to the next item on the agenda. I call upon Shrimati Sita Devi to move her motion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I beg to move :

That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill.

The motion was carried.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City South East) (Hindi) : Sir, I beg to introduce :

The Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to submit that in the first instance this Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in the year 1948, when after due discussion it was circulated for eliciting public opinion. Opinions were actually received from all the Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners, Sessions Judges and other important non-official institutions in the State. It is hoped that the record of the opinions received will be available in the Legislature Secretariat and the same, if referred to, will reveal the extent to which the public had lent support to the aims and objects of the Bill. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the then Law Minister in the Government of India, too, welcomed the idea and he was pleased to convey his sense of appreciation to me. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee which duly considered but it could not be passed into law in that Assembly. The members of the Assembly were recently elected by the people.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

[At this stage Chaudhri Lahri Singh, Minister for Irrigation rose from his seat to go out of the Chamber.)

Will Chaudhri Sahib please take the trouble of remaining in his seat for sometime more ? Mr. Speaker, my impression was that the Bill could not be passed in the previous Assembly because the number of lady members in that House was very small and the male Members were in absolute majority. It is true that the number of lady members in the present House is again only three but I am glad to note that my brethren here are at one with me in realising that such a Bill should be passed during the present Session.

Sir, it has been accepted as a universal principle that a man should be faithful to his wife. Take the case of the "*Ramayna*". On an allegation made by a washerman, Shri Ram Chandra sent his wife to exile, but in her absence when he performed the Yajna instead of marrying a second wife he got the golden image of Sitaji placed by his side.

Minister for Irrigation : What about Raja Dashrath ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : A little earlier Chaudhri Sahib wanted to go somewhere. He may better go, if he so likes.

I have narrated this incident from the "*Ramayana*." To-day the men want that their wives should be devoted to them but can I be assured that the former too, on their part will be faithful to their wives and will bear in mind the story of the golden image that I have related. What are our customs to-day? In our villages, there is a custom known as "*chadar*" according to which on the death of a woman's husband she marries the brother of the deceased and if, he too, passes away, she marries the other brother. This House is aware of the fact that we are a free nation now and it is bit essential that we should know what will be the status of women in the new structure of society.

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The Lady Member is attacking the customs of certain communities. I would request the hon. Lady Member, through you, Sir to withdraw these remarks.

Mr. Speaker : I entirely agree with you.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I am not attacking the customs. I am explaining them simply for the information of the House

Captain Ranjit Singh : She should better withdraw the same.

Minister for Public Works : I hope the lady Member will withdraw the Bill also.

Shrimati Sita Devi : It has generally become a fashion to-day that men having a wife and children wants to marry again.

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon. Lady Member feel the necessity of giving such examples when there is no opposition to the Bill ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : It is quite true Sir, that no body in the House opposed to the Bill, but I want that it should be passed.

Mr. Speaker, my submission is that such like Bills have already been passed in the States of Bombay, Madras and Baroda. I made several requests to my Government that following the precedent set by the Bombay Government, our Government should also agree to introduce this Bill officially. My requests fell on deaf ears. I reiterated my request before the present Government but it was not acceded to, probably because it was feared that the House in which the men were a majority would not care to lend its full support to it. Thus, I have been left with no other alternative but to introduce this Bill as a non-official measure.

According to the wishes of the hon. Speaker, I shall not waste the precious time of the House. However, I think it necessary to bring to your notice a few matters of vital public importance. My humble submission is that we should take steps to eradicate the evil of bigamy, which is eating into the vitals of Hindu society. This evil is increasing every day and it is a matter of shame for us that our women have been reduced to a very pitious and humiliating condition. Some women have to clean utensils to make both their ends meet. Others are working in schools and there are still others who have no means of livelihood and are forced to resort to prostitution.

This Bill was presented in the previous Assembly as well. But I am sorry that the then Legislators did not care to pass this important Bill. Now that it has been introduced with the consent of the House, I would earnestly request that this piece of legislation which aims at purging the society of the evil of bigamy should be passed unanimously.

PUBLICATION IN THE PRESS OF RESOLUTIONS, BILLS, ETC.,
BEFORE THEY ARE ADMITTED.

Mr. Speaker : I want to draw the pointed attention of the House to a matter of vital importance that no question, resolution or Bill of which notice has been given by a Member should be given out for

[Mr. Speaker]

publication in the press or otherwise until it has been admitted. Shri Kesho Dass, who has given notice of a Bill, has got printed copies of the same and he has circulated them. Perhaps he has done this due to ignorance of rules and regulations. It is highly objectionable and I would ask the hon. Members to remain careful in such matters in future. Now, I would call upon Shri Ram Kishan to move his Resolution.

RESOLUTIONS.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY FROM THE EXECUTIVE.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North West) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to move that :

In view of the fact that in all advanced and progressive countries, an independent judiciary is considered an absolute necessity for the peace and progress of the country, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take easy steps to separate the judiciary from the Executive.

Sir, the resolution which I have had the privilege of moving in the House, with your kind permission, is of a very important nature. Our real independence and the progressive development of democracy depend on our having an independent judiciary. During the British regime our nationalist leaders raised their voice against the vesting of judicial and executive functions in the same hands because this system cannot give us unalloyed justice. But the Government of the time turned a deaf ear to all our requests. I want to draw the attention of the House to the historical background of this vital issue. The union of judicial and executive functions was considered a violation of the basic principles of justice and the Indians, especially the Bengalis, agitated against this anomaly. Sir, I want to tell the hon. Members that even Warren Hastings was opposed to this structure. Some alterations were made in 1790 but these were of a very minor nature. The Indian National Congress persistently made the demand that the executive should be separated from judiciary in almost every session it held. Even in the Central Legislature, the Indian statesmen repeatedly made this demand. Further I want to place before you an extract from the memorandum sent to the Secretary of State for India in 1839 which runs as follows :—

The union of judicial and executive function is considered to violate the first principle of equity. It is pointed out that the very natures of the two justices differ, and require for their proper discharge two distinct types of mental equipment and out look which cannot be simultaneously possessed by the same officials.

In the execution of their civil administrative business, the collectors may come into conflict with individuals or institutions and it would be inexpedient and unsafe to invest them with judicial powers which could be utilised against these, that absolute detachment and aloofness which is necessary for the impartial carrying out of justice cannot be possessed by a Magistrate who is also responsible for the peace of the District and who is therefore likely to entertain an unconscious bias in one direction or the other.

This is not all. After this a *bara sahib* (Henry Cotton) came to India.

Sir, Henry Cotton, himself a distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service, declares it to be a matter of universal knowledge that :—

Subordinate magistrates whose position and promotion are dependent on the District Magistrate cannot, in such circumstances discharge their Judicial duties with that degree of independence which ought to characterize a court of justice.

In the book entitled ' New India ' a District Magistrate is reported to have written to a subordinate Magistrate.

The sentence is inadequate, if this occurs again, I shall report your misconduct to Government.

The matter does not end here. After this, in 1916 the Public Service Commission wrote :

The union of executive and judicial powers in the Collector and his subordinates was theoretically an objectionable anomaly.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : The Constitution has accepted the principle of the separation of Judiciary from the Executive. Where is the need of going into this old history.

Shri Ram Kishan : In 1927—28, Simon Commission came to India and it also laid stress on their separation.

Mr. Attlee the ex-Premier of the United Kingdom was a member of that Commission. In the Commission's report, it was suggested that the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive. At that time India was under foreign rule and nobody took notice of such suggestions. After that the Government of India Act, 1935 was enforced and elections were held under it. Among the members elected to the Central Assembly were persons like Bulabhai Desai and Shri Satya Murti. In this very hall, they demanded the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, in order to give real justice to the people. But the country was not the master of its own destiny. So no heed was paid to what they said. The Executive and the Judiciary were not separated.

We have been seeing the effects of this combination in the treatment meted out to Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi at different times.

[Shri Ram Kishan]

During the individual satyagraha movement, Pandit Nehru was awarded four years imprisonment for a speech delivered by him at Gorakhpur. The Secretary of State had issued instructions to the Governor of U. P. for the arrest of individuals during this satyagraha. Such incidents in our fight for independence go to confirm our belief that the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive in the interests of justice.

A resolution was moved in the session of the All-India Congress Committee held at Karachi about twenty one years ago that when India achieves independence, steps would be taken to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. After our emancipation from the foreign yoke, we have laid down in the chapter a " Directive Principles of State Policy " of our Constitution that efforts would be made for the separation of the two branches as soon as possible. In Madras, the Government introduced this much needed reform even before the enforcement of the constitution. They took this step on the 2nd October, 1949, when the country was celebrating the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. In West Bengal the principle of separation has been introduced to some extent. Even in P.E.P.S.U, steps have been taken to bring about the separation of the judiciary from the executive. There is no reason why we should also not go ahead with this work.

If we have set up democratic institutions, why should we not make their fruits available to the people. The one way to do that is the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. In the Preamble to the Constitution, it is laid down :—

We the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens : Justice, social, economic and political : Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation:

After reading it we feel the necessity of separating the Executive from the Judiciary so that we may be in a position to bestow equal opportunities on all individuals as soon as possible.

Sir, I wish to make it quite clear that in our Constitution, the Judiciary has been given a more dignified place than it has occupied before. All cases of dispute between the State and an individual are referred to it for decision. In other countries like America, Russia, Australia and Canada, the Executive and the Judiciary are quite separate and are independent of each other. So it becomes but natural for us to examine as to how our administration

was run under the British rule and what changes ought to be brought about in it in order to bring it to the level of other advanced countries of the world. During the British regime we had one officer in each district, who preformed the functions of both a Deputy Commissioner and a District Magistrate. This system continues even upto this day. As a Deputy Commissioner, he has to collect land revenue, act as an officer of the Court of Wards and perform other functions of an executive nature in connection with the Excise, Agriculture, Jails, Civil Supplies and other departments of the Government. In his district he is the head of all these departments and supervises their work. At the same time he has to exercise the powers of a District Magistrate. In that capacity, he has the judicial powers of a first class Magistrate. He can try criminal cases on the original side and can also order prosecutions. He hears appeals against the orders of third class Magistrates.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Is there no time limit for the hon. Member ?

Mr. Speaker : As mover of the motion, he is entitled to speak for a longer time then that allowed to other hon. Members.

Shri Ram Kishan : He is also the head of all subordinate Magistrates and has to supervise their work. As everybody knows, one and the same person exercises executive powers as a Deputy Commissioner and judicial powers as a District Magistrate. How can the public get justice under these circumstances ? The District Magistrate is responsible for maintaining law and order in the district under his charge. There is no doubt that the Superintendent of Police is incharge of the Police in a District, but in the matter of public meetings and processions, he can not act without the orders of the District Magistrate. A Superintendent of Police is responsible for the proper performance of duties by the police officers under him. As a matter of fact, full powers with regard to every matter concerning a district vest in one and the same person, who functions as a Deputy Commissioner as well as a District Magistrate. In these citcumstances, the public cannot get justice. In the words of Palande, the district officer is 'the eyes, the ears, the mouth and the hand of the Provincial Government in the district'. In this connection, I want to refer to one or two cases which happend in the State during the last six or seven months. Everybody must have read about the Bhindi Saidan case. What happened in Barere, district Karnal, also came to be known sometime back. These things compel us to demand an immediate separation of the executive from the judiciary. How the women were molested and raped at Bhindi Saidan is known to all the hon. Members. They were stripped naked and the most heinous crimes were

[Shri Ram Kishan]

committed against them. After a protracted trial, all the police officers who were responsible for their shameful crimes were acquitted and those persons against whom these were committed, were sentenced to imprisonment for three years each. These police officers have now applied to the Government for permission to proceed against the complainants for malicious prosecution. That case was a standing disgrace to the administration of the Punjab and the Government should file an appeal against the judgment of the Magistrate.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is treading on very slippery ground. He should try to wind up his speech.

Shri Ram Krishan : I referred to Barere case also. In that case eleven persons were put under arrest. It has been given out that one of them died in the lock up, but in reality he was suspended from a tree and shot dead. Shots were fired even at his dead body. These happenings compel us to demand that the judiciary should be separated from the executive, as early as possible. Under the present system, the confirmation and promotion of Magistrates depend on police reports. The police department prepares an account of the number of cases tried by a Magistrate and the number of those in which he convicted the accused. How can the Magistrates do justice and acquit people under these conditions? In Simla and some other places in the Punjab, a few Sub-Judges have been invested with Magisterial powers. The way in which these officers decide cases is quite different. As they are not under the influence of the police, their mode of deciding cases is entirely different. To set the matters right, immediate separation of judiciary from the executive should be effected. The Government should find out the number of cases in which challans under Section 109 were based on genuine suspicion and also of those in which these were due to some other reasons. These things compel us to demand that the executive as well as judicial powers should not vest in the same persons. That alone can ensure justice to the common man. A committee under the chairmanship of the Advocate General was constituted in Madras for suggesting methods of effecting this separation. A similar committee presided over by a High Court Judge was constituted in Bombay. In order to carry out the provisions of the 'Directive Principles of State Policy' as laid down in the Indian Constitution, it is incumbent upon the Government to take immediate steps for separating the judiciary from the executive. To achieve that object, the Government should set up a Committee consisting of officials, as well as non-officials, who should interview people and suggest steps for effecting the

desired change. A committee for suggesting judicial reforms has been constituted in Uttar Pradesh and the Governments of other States are also doing so. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of doing something in that direction, as early as possible. We should reform the judicial procedure in our State, so that people may get speedy justice.

I know that certain arguments can be advanced against this reform. For instance, it may be said that it will lead to slackness in administrative machinery or increase in expenditure or affect the prestige of the officers who are to be shorn of judicial powers. In a free country, Sir, where public servants are supposed to be imbued with the ideal of service, the question of prestige should have no place. Gone are the days of authoritarianism when 'to govern' and not 'to serve' was the motto of the public servants. As regards expenditure I think the State of Madras has shown the way how to introduce this reform without incurring any additional expenditure. If this reform is carried out here on the same lines as in Madras, I see no reason why it should be the cause of adding to the burden of expenditure. With these words, Sir, I commend this resolution to the House for acceptance.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

In view of the fact that in all advanced and progressive countries, an independent judiciary is considered an absolute necessity for the peace and progress of the country, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Punjabi) : Sir, I move :

That in line 5, the word 'early' be deleted,
and

that at the end of the resolution, the following be added :
by April 1, 1953.

Sir, I am fully in agreement with the spirit of this resolution but take exception to the word 'early' because it leaves scope for indefinite delay in the implementation of this resolution, if passed. If it is passed in its present form, I am afraid the state of uncertainty about its being carried out will continue and the Government will continue to postpone it on one pretext or the other. It is, therefore, essential, Sir, that a definite date for its being put into effect is specified in the resolution itself.

As regards the propriety of this resolution there cannot be any difference of opinion after the illuminating speech made by my friend Shri Ram Kishan. I do not want to go into the history of the British rule in India. We have to be guided by our own experience and tackle

[Sardar Chanan Singh]

our problems according to our own lights. The way the Deputy Commissioner in our State combines in himself the functions of the prosecutor as well as the Judge is a complete negation of the principle of independence of Judiciary. Who is not aware of the fact that in the cases in which a police officer or for that matter a Deputy Commissioner is interested for his own reasons, not only is undue influence brought to bear upon the magistrate who is trying them but he is even asked to change judgment already written by him and write it as the Deputy Commissioner dictates. How can a poor magistrate whose confirmation, promotion, etc., depend upon the reports of the police officers and the Deputy Commissioner afford to displease them.

Then the interests of the Police and the Deputy Commissioner are always the same and the Magistrates are at their mercy. Not many cases go to the higher courts which are somewhat independent of the interference of the Executive. To entrust judicial powers to the Executive is indeed making a mockery of justice. This is what results in the *Police Raj*. Our friends on the Treasury Benches and their leaders during the national movement were never tired of complaining against this policy of giving Executive and Judicial powers in the same hands. For almost five years the Congress has been in power in this State but it is a pity that no step has been taken to carry out this long overdue reform. So, Sir, if the date is not specified, this matter will, I am afraid, be put into cold storage again. I need hardly repeat that we can end the *Police Raj* in this State only by putting this reform into effect.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That in line 5, the word 'early' be deleted, and that at the end of the Resolution, the following be added :

by April 1, 1953.

Shri Bhagat Ram (Haripur) : Sir, I beg to move :—

That at the end of the resolution, the following words be added :—

In the public services of the State as enjoined by the mandatory provision contained in Article 50 of the Constitution of India.

Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to make a lengthy speech in support of my amendment. This is one of the fundamental principles of legal jurisprudence that democracy and supremacy of law go together. If we have to run the democracy successfully we must take all steps to see that there is supremacy of law in the country. Unless we can do it, there will be all chaos and confusion in the State. Therefore, I submit that we should

separate the judiciary from the executive at the earliest possible moment to ensure the successful running of democracy. My purpose in moving this amendment is to make the resolution more complete. It does not in any way alter the sense of the Resolution. It only makes a reference to Article 50 of the Constitution of India, which in itself is a mandatory provision and it is mandatory on us all to accept this Resolution. With these remarks, I move this amendment for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That at the end of the Resolution, the following words be added :

In the public services of the State as enjoined by the mandatory provision contained in Article 50 of the Constitution of India.

Now that Sardar Chanan Singh and Pandit Bhagat Ram have moved their motions the original resolution along with these three amendments are before the House for discussion. The Members who want to take part in the debate can do so.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi) : Sir, the hon. Mover of this resolution has traced the history of Judiciary in this country right from the days of the rule of the East India Company to the year 1947. In the course of his illuminating speech, he has cited many instances of the interference by the then Government in the trial of the political workers and the prostitution of Judiciary at the hands of the Executive with a view to suppressing the political movements. It was then that the leaders of the Congress used to say that the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive would be the first thing they would do after the attainment of Independence. When the Constitution was enacted a directive to the States to this effect was embodied in the Directive Principles of State Policy. We had hoped that our Chief Minister who has been President of the Civil Liberties Union of this State would on assumption of office take steps to introduce this reform before anything else. But, Sir, it is a matter for deep regret that instead of the Government initiating this reform, it has come before the House in the form of a resolution moved by a private Member. That the party in power should never have so much power as to be able to suppress the liberties of the people and crush its political opponents and critics on the slightest pretext is of the very essence of democracy. Without it democracy is reduced to a farce. The history of the British rule is full of instances of the Executive using the Judiciary as an engine of oppression and tyranny to crush the political opponents. But the pity of it is that even after Independence not a single year has passed in which the party in power may not have through its Executive interfered with the due course of justice.

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

I am of the view that under the present system the Magistrates cannot act independently. On the one hand as my hon. Friend remarked the District Magistrate is the head of the Magistracy. On the other hand when the challan of a case is presented before a Magistrate becomes the complainant. When he considers it necessary to do so he issues instructions to the Magistrates that punishment must be awarded in such and such cases irrespective of the fact whether proof of the commission of crime is available or not. My hon. Friends who are lawyers must be aware that in the year 1947 the Magistrates passed light sentences in cases falling under the Arms Act. As time passed the sentences inflicted for the same offences became severer. This was done in accordance with the policy of the Government. For example, if unlicensed arms were recovered from any person in the year 1947, a nominal fine was imposed upon him and if a person was challaned for the same offence during the year 1948, he was sentenced to three or four months' imprisonment. Now, however, the Magistrates award three or four years imprisonment for similar offence. I would say that this is a serious reflection on the independence of the Magistrates, who are bound to act according to the policy of the Government. How can a poor man expect justice when the same person who acts as a judge is also the complainant. It would be a blot on the fair name of the judiciary if it is not freed from the influence of the Executive. As a matter of fact this resolution should have been moved by the Government. At present there is so much interference by the Executive with the work of the judiciary that a poor man has only to submit to the orders and curse his fate.

Then, Sir, instructions are issued by the Government to all the district officers that they should bail out the accused challaned under Sections 107 and 109 C. P. C. The police officers go to their *illaqas* and arrest persons, whom they produce in the court. Such persons are harassed by being required to attend the court at a number of hearings. The Magistrate has the power of pleasing anybody he likes by accepting his bail application. There are many cases in which the Police Sub-Inspectors or the Magistrates extort confession from the accused by exerting undue pressure. Such persons cannot get justice unless the Judiciary is free from the influence of the Executive.

There is no doubt that many innocent persons are intimidated by the police and pressure is brought to bear upon them to extort confession. False cases are instituted against innocent persons. Such persons have to suffer mutely and cannot get their grievances redressed. If the Judiciary is

separated from the Executive, I am sure that the number of cases will be reduced to 50 per cent. Then, Sir, many false cases are made out by the Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors at the instance of Superintendents of Police and the District Magistrates but these are dismissed because the facts alleged therein are not established. This results in much loss of time and money and also causes great worry and botheration to the parties concerned. I would, therefore, suggest that the Prosecuting Inspectors should be put under the charge of the Legal Remembrancer so that they may be free from interference by the Superintendents of Police and the District Magistrates to whom at present they have to meekly submit for getting promotions. This is not all. Our Ministers are also unduly interfering in the administration. When they go on tour in district, they call a meeting of the Congress Workers and ask them to co-operate with the officers in the running of the administration. I think that this is a step in the wrong direction inasmuch as the Congress Workers interfere with the administration and influence the normal channels of justice. Thus the object for which these committees have been formed is not actually served. If you allow me, Sir, I shall say that it was the result of such interference that the hon. Chief Minister in his speech at Batala the day before yesterday admonished the officers to behave properly with the public.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not relevant.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Sir, the Congress Workers in the districts should not be encouraged to interfere with the work of the district authorities merely because they belong to the Congress Party. Such committees have been formed in every district and the Congress Workers approach the Deputy Commissioners or the Superintendents of Police and get things done on the plea that they had received such instructions from the Ministers. Under these circumstances, I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should take the work of separating the Judiciary and Executive in his own hands and assure the public that there will be no interference in the administration of justice. It is only in the High Court that justice in civil and criminal cases is done.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi) : Sir, our Chief Minister has been kind enough to be present in the House today and to listen to the important debate. I hope that he will do all in his power to effect this reform. It is essential that the general public should be given the treatment which the citizens of a free country deserve. At the same time it is also essential that the people should have full confidence in the Government and

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

its ability to give even-handed justice to all the citizens. What do we find at present? The people at large cannot hope to get a fair deal from the subordinate courts. This is a deplorable state of affairs and should not be allowed to continue. The Government has convinced the people that justice would be done in all cases. I feel that there is no necessity of my making a long speech on this subject. When the Constitution was enacted, a directive to the States to this effect was embodied in the 'Directive Principles of State Policy.' The hon. Members are themselves aware of the fact that under the British rule the Executive used the Judiciary as an engine of oppression and tyranny to crush its political opponents. Why should there be any more delay in the introduction of this most beneficial piece of reform?

I suggest that it should be announced this very day that henceforth all the Magistrates would be under the High Court and not under the Executive. The way the Deputy Commissioner combines in himself the functions of the prosecutor as well as the Judge is a complete negation of the principle of the independence of the Judiciary. Everybody is aware of the fact that in cases in which the Deputy Commissioner is interested for his own reasons, not only is undue influence brought to bear upon the Magistrate, who tries them but he is even asked to change judgments already written by him and write them again as the Deputy Commissioner dictates. How can a poor magistrate whose confirmation, promotion etc. depend upon the reports of the police officers and the Deputy Commissioner afford to displease them? I think that our Chief Minister's verbal statement to this effect would not serve any useful purpose as not many cases go to the higher courts which are somewhat independent of the interference of the Executive. To entrust judicial powers to the Executive is indeed making a mockery of justice. This is what results in Police Raj. The Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors should be under the Judiciary and not under the Executive so that they may be able to give their independent opinion to the Magistrates. When the Advocate General is not under the police why are the Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors kept under the police?

Our friends on the Treasury Benches and their Leader were, during the National Movements, never tired of complaining against this policy of giving Executive and Judicial powers in the same hands. For about 5 years the Congress has been in power in this country but it is a pity that no step has been taken to carry out this long over-due reform. My friend Shri Ram Kishan has asked for this reform being put into effect from the 1st of April

but I am of the opinion that it should be done earlier than that. Our Chief Minister was also a Member of the Cabinet during the British Regime and he appears to be having the same outlook which he had when he was a Minister of that Government. He has the same old habit of giving vague replies. Sir, I submit that if he thinks that this is a useful reform he should introduce it immediately. There is no difference of opinion about it in the House and if it is delayed, people will begin to lose confidence in the present Government.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (Hindi): Sir, it is an admitted fact that Judiciary should be separated from the Executive. This was considered to be a vital question during our country's struggle for independence which was carried on for sixty or seventy years. Therefore, Sir, I congratulate, Shri Ram Kishan for moving this Resolution particularly because he is a member of the Congress Party. It has generally been noticed that a party in power does not bring in such a legislation which curtails its executive powers. It goes to the credit of the Congress, which is at present in power in the State that one of its members has moved this Resolution. As a matter of fact, it should have been moved by the Opposition. It is quite clear that the party in power is not in favour of adopting undesirable means against its political opponents. It is a convincing proof of the broad-mindedness of the Congress.

Now, Sir, I want to point out to the hon. Members of this House that it is their duty to take steps to get this Resolution implemented as early as possible. I want to tell them that out of the four or five main principles of democracy, it is the most important principle that Judiciary should be independent. Further, it is against the fundamental principles of our Constitution to keep Judiciary dependent upon the Executive. Therefore, it is necessary to separate these immediately.

Then, Sir, I want to assure the hon. Members sitting opposite that our Government does not want to keep these two together because it does not want to misuse its powers. That is the reason why this Resolution has been moved from the Ministerial Benches.

Sir, I want to tell those hon. Members who wish to fix 1953 as the target for implementing it, that it is our sincere desire that it should be implemented much earlier than that. Six months time is enough for this purpose. The British rulers felt the need of framing such laws which gave vast powers to the Executive because they wanted to maintain a false prestige. Their very existence depended

[Rao Gajraj Singh]

upon this false prestige. For this purpose, sometimes they had to depend upon the Executive for fabricating false cases against a section of the people and they would not have been able to do so, if the Judiciary had been independent.

I beg to submit Sir, that in a Democratic State, false prestige cannot be maintained. Those officers have no place in the present regime who have such false notions of prestige. They should note that only those persons can command respect, who serve the people. I am confident, that no hon. Member whether from the Ministerial Benches or from the Opposition, is going to defend the injustice done by any officer in the State simply for keeping his false prestige. The police is more powerful when the judiciary and executive powers vest in the same officers. The Executive officers can help in the development of the country a great deal if they do not care to maintain false prestige. Moreover this is not a matter of pride that a Magistrate should be in a position to involve an innocent person in a false case.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the laws which bar the jurisdiction of Courts to go into orders issued and action taken under them. In such cases it is interesting to note that the Executive which is the complainant is also the Judge. Therefore, I request the Government to re-examine these laws and to take steps to amend them, so that the judicial powers do not remain in the hands of the Executive.

Then, Sir, we find that the Congress Party has a vast majority in the Parliament. It is in a position to set up a Court of Parliament as the Malan Government has done in South Africa. Such a Court would have the power to turn down the decisions of even the Supreme Court if it so likes. Similarly if the Judicial and Executive powers vest in the same authority, the Opposition will be in a genuine fear that the political party in power might use its powers against it. Therefore, Sir, I request the House to get these separated as early as possible.

Further, Sir, I request the hon. Ministers to examine all the enactments and to remove the shortcomings in them. For instance, they should examine the Canal Acts. In many cases, the Government which is the complainant, decides the cases itself. The Government should modify such laws. It should lay down a procedure for prosecution in such a way that the fabrication of false cases against innocent persons becomes impossible.

I also want to draw the attention of the Government to the working of the Revenue Courts in the State. The Revenue Officers, who have knowledge of the Revenue Acts only, have been given Magisterial powers. They are able to understand cases of ordinary nature only and whenever there is a complicated case involving interpretation of law, they are unable to decide those in the right manner. In such cases, they generally say that the law books are not meant for them. These are meant for the Civil Courts. Only a few of them apply their minds to the cases before them and understand the technicalities of law. The Government should give them only that work which they are capable of doing.

Then, Sir, under the Police Act, the District Magistrate is the head of the police as well as the head of the Magistracy. There is no denying the fact that the Deputy Commissioners and the Superintendents of Police have frequent meetings with one another and under the present set up of the administration it is not possible for a common man to expect justice. How can one expect an independent and impartial decision from a Magistrate who, for all intents and purposes, is under the direct supervision and control of the Deputy Commissioner? May I, Mr. Speaker, quote a few instances in support of my contention? It is only under certain special circumstances that a Deputy Commissioner can exercise his powers to requisition a house. But if a petition is filed against such requisitioning order, the Magistrate dare not hold a free enquiry into the case.

Let us probe into the plight of tenants in our State. It has been observed that whenever it is desired to harass the tenants, false cases are instituted against them. In such cases, the Magistrates have to pass such orders as Deputy Commissioners may require them to pass—(*interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should please wind up his speech.

Rao Gajraj Singh : In the end, Sir, I extend my whole-hearted support to the Resolution and submit that with a view to eliminate the possibility of any undue pressure or influence being exercised in the administration of justice it is of paramount importance that the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, the Resolution under discussion has received unanimous support from all quarters

[Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan]

of this House. What I wish to say is that in spite of the fact that even the Opposition Members have fully supported the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, I fail to understand the utility of such a scathing criticism as was made by them. Perhaps they are bent upon finding fault with every measure that is initiated from the Treasury Benches. They use such occasions for making scathing criticism against the Government. (*interruptions*). Sir, although the Communist and Akali Members have supported the Resolution, yet in their speeches, they have made false allegations against the Government and have severely criticised and condemned it. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I ask my Communist Friends who have strongly supported the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, whether such a separation exists in Russia ? (*interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : A number of accusations has been hurled against the Government in respect of the Ludhiana incident, but I wish to inform my hon. Friends on the Opposition that their charges prove to be blessings in disguise.

It has been alleged that the party in power exercises its influence over the independent functioning of the Judiciary. In refuting this baseless charge, I make bold to submit that the Congressmen have never resorted to any sort of interference in this direction. On the other hand. I have no hesitation in saying and have got evidence to prove that atrocities were committed on Congressmen by certain officers at the instance of the Communists.....(*interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Sir, I wonder, how my hon. Friends concoct stories with a view to bring the Government into disrepute.

Now I advert to the Resolution. It is my privilege to support it. Sir, the result of the combination of these two functions of the administration is evident from the cases of Bhindi-Saidan and Barara. I, therefore, beg to emphasise that it is high time that the Government came forward and took immediate steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive and removed the slur cast on its fair name by such happenings in our State. At the same time, I feel that the Government is not in possession of any 'Aladin's Lamp' with which it could work miracles overnight and, as such, my submission is that the imposition of any time limit for the implementation of this Resolution seems to be uncalled for.

Mr. Speaker, it would not be out of place to mention here that whenever such changes are contemplated, certain officers create obstacles and ultimately dissuade the Government from implementing its policy. Here I am reminded of a case—which the chair would disallow me from discussing on the floor of the House on account of its being *sub-judice* but I wish to submit that cases which involve personal interests of the officers, are generally made a question of prestige. My submission, therefore, is that the Government should pay no heed to the views of its officers in this particular regard and should implement this Resolution at a very early date.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: Sir, I beg to move

That the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker: Question is

That the question be now put.

The motion was lost.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (Punjabi): Sir, the question of the separation of Judiciary from the Executive has been hanging fire since long and it is a pity that its finalization is being delayed in spite of the fact that no two persons disagree on the fundamental principle involved. In our country the most important need of the day is that autocracy should be completely and immediately weeded out because unless this spirit of autocracy is exiled, democracy cannot function properly. So long as a Government does not formulate its policy on the principles of democracy, peace and justice cannot prevail. But it is strange that no steps have so far been taken by the Government to prepare ground for the running of the Administration on democratic lines. Bureaucracy still reigns supreme in the courts and the people are being exploited in the same old fashion as in the British period. The masses continue to cry for justice but in vain. This is due to the fact that the officers placed at the helm of affairs continue to be autocrats.

Mr. Speaker, we must not grudge due credit to our Cabinet for the sincere efforts they have made so far in solving some of our very intricate problems. They are doing their best and it is but essential that they should be given some time for achieving their objective. Despite this fact I beg to submit that not a moment should be lost by our Government in exploring ways and means for establishing peace and justice in the State. The people today are tired of the tyranny of the police. Some bureaucratic officers still have the courage and the authority to crush those who dare to complain against their acts of injustice and highhandedness. Had our Magistrates been

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri]

free from the influence of the Executive the position today would have been quite different. To end the rule of autocracy, the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is a dire necessity. The question which remains to be decided, however, is how much time will this scheme take to materialize. My own feeling is that it should not take very long if the most experienced and efficient lawyers who as a result of their honest work and good reputation happen to be in the good books of the Government, are made to act as the heads of the judiciary. This is an important constructive suggestion from me and I hope that it will receive favourable consideration at the hands of the Government, so that arrangements can be made to separate the Judiciary from the Executive very soon.

A favourable aspect of this problem is that our Central Government has through its Constitution, given the State Governments the directive to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. The question being of a vital importance should, therefore, be attended to immediately.

I may further say, Sir, that leaving aside the defects already pointed out, the combination of the Judiciary and the Executive has resulted in loss of efficiency. Still another important argument in support of the immediate separation of these is that the masses here have not yet felt even a small degree of that happiness which they could ordinarily have expected on the attainment of freedom. They are suffering not only economically but also from the despotic manner of the Executive-cum-judicial officers. False cases of dacoity and murder are registered against innocent persons. To quote an instance, I may refer to an occasion when I accompanied the Chief Minister in my *Ilaga*. About eighty persons made written statements before him that they had been involved by the police in false cases. They also revealed that the "*Badmashes*" who used to be the favourites of the administrators during the British period were still clinging to their old habit of harassing the people.

Needless to say that our present system of judiciary has given birth to touts who are addicted to taking bribes. These touts cannot be dispensed with unless the judiciary is rid of the police influence. How the Magistrates are afraid of the police can be well realised from the talk that a Magistrate had with me. He frankly told me that he knew fully well that a large number of cases brought before him by the police were false yet he found himself helpless, because if he exercised a free judgment he would be complained against by the police authorities. He was afraid that such reports might deprive him of his livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, one cannot discharge one's responsibility unless one is free to act according to the dictates of one's conscience. I, therefore, request the hon. Ministers to give their most serious consideration to the problem of the separation of the Executive from the Judiciary. The Cabinet Members should give a practical shape to this Resolution as early as possible.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (Hindi) : Mr. Speaker, during the course of the discussion on this Resolution the hon. Members of the House have dealt with many points but in my opinion the whole discussion centres around two words only which have been used in the Resolution. The first of these is the 'Executive'. What does this word mean ?

In a sovereign State there is a Cabinet which brings forward measures before the legislature, and these measures when passed become law. These laws are for the guidance of the Executive. These measures invariably represent the policy and the view point of the party in power. In this way the policy of the party in power is implemented by the Government of the day through its Executive.

Only recently the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and some other States passed certain laws for the abolition of the *Zamindari* system, but on being challenged in the Supreme Court those laws were held to be *ultra vires* of the Constitution. The Government was, therefore, obliged to effect certain changes in the Constitution.

The mover of this resolution has already pointed out that by keeping the Judiciary and the Executive combined, we are simply making the shackles of slavery stronger. The officers cannot get promotions unless they please the Executive. Unless some of the anomalies on account of which people suffer, are removed we cannot get real justice.

It is said that the greatest guarantee of democracy is an efficient Judiciary without which no country can prosper. The Judiciary should be free from all influences. In South Africa some laws were recently enacted which discriminated between the white and the coloured men. The Supreme Court of that country being free from any influence of the Executive declared those laws to be *ultra vires*.

In our country, we have a democratic Government which has ensured various privileges and rights to the people. We cannot say about the future. May be that after 5 or 10 years a party comes into power which may have fascist ideologies.....(*Interruptions*)

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

It has been said that the present officers are the legacy of the old bureaucratic regime and as such they have the same outlook. A change in their outlook can be brought about by doing away with this century old structure. For the progressive development of democracy and for establishing confidence in the administration of justice, Judiciary should be separated from the Executive. Some people think that we do not effect this change but I want to tell them with all the emphasis at my command that none would be happier at this than us.

But my humble suggestion is that we should not act in haste because the proposed change will entail a lot of expenditure resulting in a great burden on our exchequer. I am afraid that hasty steps for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive will have baneful consequences. Our Government is committed to give a practical shape to this demand.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : But this is not haste.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It does not behove Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina to interrupt me like this. I may submit that it is the earnest desire of this Government to give maximum civil liberties to the common man.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : We are not allowed any liberty.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I may be allowed to tell my friends opposite that they could not have occupied these seats in this House if there had been no civil liberties in the State. I may assure him that it is the policy of our Government to provide civil liberties to all the citizens irrespective of their party affiliations. This vital issue of separating the Executive from the Judiciary is receiving the active consideration of the Government and our Chief Minister is prepared to give full assurance to that effect, but we cannot leap in the dark as that will only result in chaos and confusion. Everybody wants to do away with this old system which was forced on us by the British Imperialists for their selfish ends. In the end, I reiterate that for the administration of undiluted justice to the man in the street this separation must be brought about but we should not act in haste.

Sardar Rajindar Singh Gyani (Rupar) (Punjabi) : Sir, I think that no member of the House can differ on the question of separating the Executive from the Judiciary. Many members have told me that they are in favour of this separation. There is no gainsaying the fact that for getting justice and fairplay for the man in the street and establishing confidence in the adminis-

tration of justice, Judiciary should be separated from the Executive. Being myself a pleader I know how the magistrates decide cases and award punishments. My learned Friend Sardar Wazir Singh has brought to your notice, how in 1947 the sentences of fine ranging between Rs. 100 and 200 were converted into imprisonment and how later on the terms of imprisonment were raised from 3 or 4 months to 3 or four years.

Sir, what I mean to say is that the Magistrates usually award punishments not according to the provisions of the I.P.C. and Cr.P.C. but according to the wishes of their officers. A Deputy Commissioner is also a District Magistrate and he enjoys the powers of hearing appeals in the same cases. For instance, a District Magistrate is empowered to grant bail in cases in which it is refused by the trial Magistrate. I know of certain cases in which the District Magistrate refused to accept bail simply because he was prejudiced against the persons concerned. I do not wish to disclose the names of such persons here. Suffice it to say that the District Magistrate who has to deal with the persons in his *Illaga* in the capacity of an Executive Officer is not a fit person to decide cases of a judicial nature.

Similar, the other Magistrates cannot displease their boss and every time they decide a case they keep his wishes in view. Another thing which tends to destroy the independent character of the judiciary is that promotions of the Magistrates depend upon the report they get from the police. Until they cross the efficiency bar, the Magistrates have generally a convicting attitude. After they have crossed it they usually give independent judgments. So long as a Magistrate is under the threat of his boss and has the fear of a bad report from the police, he cannot decide cases independently and judicially.

There is another thing to which the attention of the House needs to be drawn. A prosecuting Sub-Inspector who appears before the Court in uniform puts undue pressure on the poor and ignorant witnesses who are generally afraid of his uniform. It reminds them of the harassment which is often caused by the police to those witnesses who do not depose as desired by the prosecution. This condition of the mind goes against the ends of justice and has a deterrent effect upon the witnesses. The P.S.I.'s themselves are directly under the thumb of the D.S.P.'s and S.P.'s because their promotions are dependent upon the reports of such officers. In cent per cent cases they do not recommend bail and they always write, "Bail strongly opposed."

[Sardar Rajindar Singh Gyani]

The public have no faith in the decisions of such officers where decisions are influenced from above. No justice is possible under these circumstances. Moreover, the officers like the Deputy Commissioners and the S.D.O.'s have other duties to perform. They have to tour their areas from one corner to another. Much of their time is taken up by their executive duties. So, they cannot pay full attention towards studying the facts of a case and dispensing justice. In many cases the judgments are pronounced after a long time. In this way the public is put to a great deal of unnecessary botheration and trouble. These grievances of the people cannot be redressed unless the promotions of the Magistrates are made to depend upon their judicial work and not upon the reports of the police. No recommendations should be made to them to influence their decisions. I have seen that the Judges are less prone to such recommendations than the Magistrates who have not crossed their efficiency bar.

In view of what I have stated above, I am of the view that the judiciary should be separated from the Executive. But I differ from my hon. Friend Sardar Chanan Singh who desires a time-limit to be fixed. I think that this work is of such a nature that the observance of any such time-limit is not possible. In the first place, we have made no provision in the Budget for this purpose and it is not possible to finance it this year. In the second place, the question of separation involves many changes in the various sections of the Cr.P.C. and other Acts. This too will take some time. So I think that a time-limit should not be imposed in this matter. I would, therefore, request Sardar Chanan Singh to withdraw his amendment.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is

That the question be now put.

The motion was lost.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (Hindi) : Sir, a number of hon. Members have expressed their views about the Resolution under discussion and none of them has opposed it. Leaving aside the question of principle, I want to examine this subject from the point of view of a layman. It has been considered necessary to bring forward this Resolution, because under the present system, the same agency acts as the complainant, the prosecutor and the Judge. Justice can not be administered under these circumstances. In support of this Resolution reference has been made to the process of our political evolution and also to the provisions of the Indian

Constitution. It has been pointed out that according to the 'Directive Principles of State Policy' as laid down in the Constitution, it is the duty of the Government to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. At present the Executive lodges a complaint against a person, its prosecution agency prosecutes the accused and a Magistrate, who is another part of the executive machinery, tries the case. This system was introduced by the British rulers because it suited their purpose. When our country became free this matter naturally engaged the attention of the framers of our Constitution and they incorporated necessary provisions in regard to it in the Constitution.

We should be grateful to Shri Ram Kishan for drawing the attention of the Government to the necessity of taking some steps for separating the Judiciary from the Executive. During the general discussion of the Budget, many hon. Members pointed out that the Government had done nothing, so far, to separate these. In reply, the hon. Chief Minister stated that he was bound to effect separation, as laid down in the Constitution but it was natural that such a thing should take time. He said that the Government had issued instructions to the Magistrates that they should decide cases as the law and justice demanded and should pay no heed to the fact that their confirmation and promotion depended on the report of the Superintendent of Police. May I know when these instructions were issued by the Government?

In practice there has been no change and the old system is still being followed. Injustice is being done in most of the cases. There is no doubt that in some cases the Magistrates have given independent decisions but it was due to the interest taken by the Deputy Commissioners in those cases. A Magistrate can never dare to act against the wishes of the District Magistrate. The number of Magistrates who can give independent decisions is very small. Unless the Judiciary is separated from the Executive, people cannot get justice. In this connection, I wish to refer to a few matters. For trying cases under the Canal Act, the Government has appointed Canal Magistrates. If somebody makes an unauthorised use of canal water or commits some other offence under the aforesaid Act, he is challaned in the Court of the Canal Magistrate. The villagers accused in such cases have to undergo great inconvenience. Sometimes innocent persons are challaned merely because they offended some petty canal official, and they have to appear at forty or fifty hearings of the case. Scores of villagers are involved in such cases and if the Canal Magistrate holds his Court at one place during one hearing, he holds it in a Rest House forty or fifty miles away at the

[Shri Mool Chand Jain]

next hearing. I need not cite instances to prove this thing. Such things have happened many times in District Karnal.

There are *Ilaqa* Magistrates for trying cases pertaining to offences committed in *ilagas* under their jurisdiction. Can they not try canal cases also? The public should be saved the trouble and inconvenience which they have to suffer in connection with cases tried by Canal Magistrates. The Government has accepted the principle of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive but it should take some practical steps to give effect to it. This does not involve any expenditure and the Government cannot put forward the excuse of paucity of funds in the Budget. An amendment fixing a target date for achieving this object has been moved by one of the hon. Members, but I cannot support it because task like this cannot be accomplished immediately. To achieve it, we have to amend a number of existing laws. Unless some concrete step is taken just now, we cannot hope to bring about the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, at an early date. At present, cases go on in courts of law for two years or more. The case against Major Karan Singh, who is a big officer in this State, is an instance in point. I shall not refer to the merits of the case, but speaking generally I want to point out that some cases have been pending before the courts for more than two years. As a lawyer, I know that cases are postponed from one hearing to another simply on account of the non-appearance of prosecution witnesses. No penalty is imposed for such non-appearance. This is due to the fact that the Magistrates are afraid of the police. If the Judiciary were independent of the Executive, the presiding officers of law courts would not be under the influence of the police. I am sure that all the lawyer Members of the House would support my view. At present, nobody cares about private prosecutions. If the police challans a person, immediate action is taken by the Magistrate, but no interest is taken in the complaints by private persons. If some Government official acts in an illegal manner against a member of the public and the latter files a complaint against him, no action is taken on such a complaint. The fate of private prosecutions against Government officials is the worst. I know of many cases where such complaints have remained unattended to for long.

If a prosecution is lodged against a Sub-Inspector, an Assistant Sub-Inspector or a Head Constable of police, the Magistrate sends that complaint for report to the Superintendent of police. The Superintendent of police passes it on to the Deputy Superintendent who sends it to the Inspector. In ninety-nine per cent of such cases, it is reported that the

complaint is false and baseless. Usually these reports are sent after one year or so. In eighty percent of such cases, the complainants get disgusted on the non-receipt of the report and they do not pursue their complaints. The police officer against whom the complaint is made gets an opportunity of winning over the witnesses cited by the complainant.

Then, Sir, why any more delay in the introduction of this most beneficial piece of reform, when it does not oblige us to incur any additional expenditure, when it needs no legislation nor consideration by any committee?

I have adduced so many arguments in favour of the implementation of this reform and pointed out the defects in the present system of administration of justice under which a complainant is unable to seek redress against the person who wrongs him whether he is a private individual or an official. People will, Sir, really heave a sigh of relief the day the judiciary is separated from the Executive and is no more influenced by it.

Shri Sri Chand. Sir, I propose

That the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is

That the question be now put.

The motion was lost.

Shri Som Datta Bahri (Simla) (Hindi) : I rise, Sir, to lend my full support to the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishan. The British Government thought it best to place the Executive and the judicial functions in the same hands. This was not by mere accident but it was the result of a deliberate device which the British adopted. They were led to adopt this system on account of three important considerations. Firstly, this was an economical procedure of carrying on the administration; secondly, there was paucity of European personnel and thirdly they wanted to maintain the dignity of their officers. Later on political considerations prevailed with the then rulers of this country and they stuck to their guns and carried on the administration by combination of the judicial and the executive functions but this combination gave rise to several abuses. The result was that the Magistrates of this country became stooges in the hands of the police. They came so much under their influence that the fountain of justice was polluted. Hardly anybody administered real, pure and unadulterated justice to the citizens. The result was that they became the Engines of Oppression against the workers of the national movement which was then being carried on. This led to a great outcry against the combination of the judicial and

[Shri Som Datta Bahri]

executive functions. Later on this outcry was accentuated and it was raised in all the Provinces (now States).

The cry was not only on account of the scandalous results which this system produced but also on account of the fact that this was opposed to the fundamental principles that "He who is a prosecutor must not be a Judge in the Cause". The public demand gathered great strength and momentum on account of the misdeeds of the Magistrates which they committed under the influence of the Police and the executive authorities. After some time the Congress Party gave its full support to this demand of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive and it was often stressed by the Congress Leaders that if the authorities wanted to administer undiluted justice to the citizens of this country, they must separate the functions of these two departments from each other.

The natural result of it is that after the attainment of Independence a provision has been made in our Constitution in the shape of Article 50 in which directions have been given to the States that they should take immediate steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive so far as the public services are concerned. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I will just quote the views of some well known personalities, great diplomats and political workers.

WASHINGTON in his farewell address said :

The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all Governments in one and thus create, whatever the form of Government, a real despotism.

MADISON writes in the Federalist :

The accumulation of all powers, Executive and Judicial in the same hands, whether of one, or few or many, whether hereditary, self-appointed or elective may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

JOHN ADAMS said :

It is by balancing one of these 3 powers against the other two, that the efforts in human nature towards tyranny can alone be checked and restrained and any degree of freedom preserved.

HAMILTON asserted :

I agree that there is no liberty if the powers of Judiciary be not separated from Legislative and Executive powers.

WEBSTER observed :

The separation of the departments of Government so far as practicable, and the preservation of clear lines between them is the fundamental idea in the creation of all of our constitutions and doubtless the continuance of regulated liberty depends on maintaining these boundaries.

We find that Madras, one of our States has, in accordance with the Constitution of India, already put into effect the scheme of separating the Executive from the Judiciary in some of its districts and it is going to be shortly extended to other districts. We learn that PEPSU too has taken some steps in this direction. Therefore, my submission is that Punjab should not lag behind. On the other hand the Punjab should go ahead and separate the Judiciary from the Executive as early as possible.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, now that we have adopted the democratic system of Government there are four conditions which we must satisfy if we want to make it a success in our country. First is the removal of illiteracy and bringing about universal literacy. The second condition is the banishment of unemployment. The third condition is the improvement in the treatment that is meted out to the people in Government offices and Courts by the Government Officials. It is essential that the general public should be given the treatment which the citizens of a free country deserve. At the same time it is also essential that the people should have full confidence in their Government and its ability to give evenhanded justice to all the citizens. What do we find at present?

The people at large have no faith in getting a fair deal from the lower Courts set up by this Government. This lack of confidence is the negation of the very spirit of democracy. It is very essential for the Government to command the confidence of the people in its administration of justice.

For this purpose the freeing of the Judiciary from the hands and interference of the Executive is of paramount importance in a democratic State like ours. Everybody today is aware of the fact that in all progressive countries such as England, America and France, the judicial organization is completely separate from the Executive Branch of the Government and its adjudications are never influenced by the latter. Therefore, I urge the necessity of this wholesome reform for a country like ours where democracy is yet a tender sapling of four or five years and needs careful tending for its progress. By the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive we can fortify it against the onslaughts of even the most gusty winds

[Shri Rala Ram]

It is true, as my hon. Friends have already remarked that there is a general complaint all round that the police even now dance to the tune of those officers who were the henchmen of the British *raj*. When we visit our constituencies and come in contact with the people we find that they are utterly dissatisfied with the behaviour of the police. They say that the police are still following the traditions of the British Government and there is not the least change in their mentality even after the attainment of freedom. If the Government is really anxious to reform the attitude of the police and make their interference in the administration of justice impossible it will have to make the Judiciary independent and free from the influence of the Executive. In this way the police will not be in a position to do the things which they do with equanimity.

I, therefore, think that for the progressive development of democracy and for establishing confidence in the administration of justice it is necessary that the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive as early as possible.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (Hindi): Sir, after hearing the discussion on this Resolution I have been reminded of a story which is applicable to the present Resolution and I would like to narrate it before the House.

Once a philosopher wanted to cross a river in a boat. The current and the wind were favourable and the boat drifted on of itself. When he had gone a short distance he engaged himself in a chat with the boatman and enquired of him if he had studied philosophy. On hearing the boatman's reply in the negative the philosopher was surprised and told him that he should regard half of his life as being over. After sometime when the boat had proceeded further a strong wind began to blow and the boat was in danger of being overturned, the boatman enquired of the philosopher if he knew the art of swimming, who replied: "No." Then the boatman retorted that he should regard his whole life as having finished as the boat was likely to capsize. So philosophy is the study of human actions and conduct. It has a bearing on the functions of the Judiciary and the Executive also. The Members of this House must have had the experience of the powers of the Executive. We the members of the House act like the Judiciary when we explain the implications of various laws and the Ministers are like the Executive who execute these laws.

We have heard that Ravana of Lanka had ten heads but a Deputy Commissioner has eleven. He is not only a Deputy Commissioner but is also a District Magistrate, and a Collector. Besides being the Chief Executive Officer of the District, he is the head of the police force and the Magistracy. The separation of judicial functions from the executive is necessary from the psychological point of view also. The mind has three parts.

(i) Cognitive

(ii) Conative

(iii) Feeling

The cognitive part of the mind is seldom used and the third, namely, the feeling part is often exercised. Judiciary is mostly concerned with the cognitive part and the Executive with the conative and the feeling parts. Considered from the psychological point of view it does not seem proper and advisable that one and the same individual should be the Judicial officer and the administrator.

Then, Sir, there are three categories of punishments, namely, retributive, deterrent and reformative. The District Magistrate who is the executive head is always actuated by feelings which do not restrain him in the matter of awarding punishment. He always awards retributive and deterrent punishments to the accused persons and does not consider the circumstances under which a particular offence was committed nor does he ever think of awarding reformative punishment. If we look at the punishments from the point of view of their object it would be advisable to separate the practical and psychological forms of punishments from each other.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (Punjabi): Sir, the subject of separating the Judiciary from the Executive has already been sufficiently thrashed out but I would like to make a few more observations in this connection. A Statesman of France named Montesquieu once remarked that if democracy is to function on the right lines the Judiciary must be separated from the Executive and the Legislature must also be quite independent. The Constitutionlists of America, France and England worked on these lines of the separation of powers and they have achieved success in a large measure. In America, there has never been a difference of opinion on this subject. In England this system is functioning with great success. So far as India is concerned, there was a separation of Judiciary from the Executive

[Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon]

but it was only a partial one. The Judiciary in its higher stages is distinctly separate from the Executive as appeal against the orders of the Magistrates can be filed in the court of the Sessions Judge and then again to the High Court. But by an ingenious device the Britishers kept the magistracy under the control of the Executive in order to exploit it for their own political and bureaucratic interests. Some Statesmen have remarked that in a dictatorship all powers Executive, Judicial and Legislative are concentrated in the hands of the dictator while in a democracy such powers are in different and independent hands.

Sir, during the British regime in theory the Government was run on democratic lines but in practice both the Judiciary and the Executive were centered in the hands of the District Magistrate. A District Magistrate being the Executive head can ask a Magistrate to challan a certain individual and also award him punishment. The way the Deputy Commissioner in our State combines in himself the functions of the prosecutor as well as the Judge is a complete negation of the very spirit of democracy. Who is not aware of the fact that in cases in which the Deputy Commissioner is interested for his own reasons not only is undue influence brought to bear upon the Magistrate who is trying them but he is even asked to alter or amend the judgments already written by him. Sir, how can a poor Magistrate whose confirmation, promotion, etc., depend upon the reports of the Police Officers and the Deputy Commissioners afford to displease them? Rather than administering Justice to the people he would naturally care more for his own career. A Magistrate is required to perform other duties also such as the raising of contributions for the Red Cross Society, receiving the Ministers, etc., and other multifarious duties with the result that he cannot attend to his own work properly. Now as India is a free country it is essential that the general public should be given the treatment which the citizens of a free country deserve. At the same time it is also essential that the people should have full confidence in their Government and its ability to meet out even-handed justice to them. The underlying object of separating the Judiciary from the Executive was that the democracy should work on the right and sound lines. But we have also to deal with the tendencies and vagaries of totalitarian regimes and ideologies which believe in a single party rule and the crushing of the opposition.

In fact the object of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive will not be served if democracy does not function properly. I, therefore, .

suggest that some judicial powers of detention and prevention should be vested in the Executive, but, such powers should be given by this House only and very sparingly used for the preservation of our newly born democratic Republic

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (Punjabi): Sir, today the subject under discussion is that the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive. I am also of the opinion that this beneficial piece of reform should be brought about as early as possible. To entrust Judicial and Executive powers in the same hands is indeed making a mockery of justice. I am reminded of a couplet which reads thus :

ਖੁਦ ਹੀ ਕਾਤਿਲ ਖੁਦ ਹੀ ਸ਼ਾਹਿਦ ਖੁਦ ਹੀ ਮੁਨਸਿਫ਼ ਠਹਰੇ ।
ਅਕਰਬਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਰੇਂ ਖ਼ੂਨ ਕਾ ਦਾਵਾ ਕਿਸ ਪਰ ।

ਖੁਦ ਹੀ ਕਾਤਿਲ ਖੁਦ ਹੀ ਸ਼ਾਹਿਦ ਖੁਦ ਹੀ ਮੁਨਸਿਫ਼ ਠਹਿਰੇ ।
ਅਕਰਬਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਰੇਂ ਖ਼ੂਨ ਕਾ ਦਾਵਾ ਕਿਸ ਪਰ ।

If this is to be the case, then there is no use administering justice to the people. We generally notice that the accused are brought to the courts by the Police, undue pressure is brought to bear upon the Magistrates who try them and the P.S.Is' get them convicted. Now that we have adopted the democratic system of Government it is essential that the general public should be given the treatment which the citizens of a free country deserve. For this purpose the freeing of the Judiciary from the interference of the Executive is of paramount importance in a democratic State like ours. Sir, I quote the example of the Rehabilitation Department. In this Department the Judicial as well as Executive powers are centred in the hands of the same officers. I mean, Sir, that the same officers who passed orders of allotment themselves decide the applications for review.

If separate officers are deputed to decide appeals only then can true justice be administered to people. I, therefore, request, Sir, that the judicial organization may be completely freed from the Executive and I strongly support this Resolution.

Shri Jagat Ram (Hoshiarpur) (Hindi): Sir, I beg to submit that the framers of our Constitution had kept this thing in their minds that justice should be done to the masses. They empowered the Judiciary to interpret the provisions of the Constitution in cases of dispute. They have given this power to the Supreme Court, so that the Executive is not able to do

[Shri Jagat Ram]

injustice to the masses by wrongly interpreting those provisions. The very fact, that the party in power has placed Judiciary over and above the Executive, shows the sincerity of that party. By doing so, it has ensured Justice to every national of the country.

Then Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that about 2½ years have passed since the Constitution was enforced but till now, it has failed to give effect to the direction contained therein. I want to point out to the hon. Members, that even Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, our Prime Minister cannot interfere with the Judiciary, whereas a Deputy Commissioner and a police officer are empowered to influence the decision of the Magistrates. Further, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Ministers that the results are always bad when the Judiciary is under the influence of the police. The framers of our Constitution have done an ideal thing by placing Judiciary as a safety valve between the public and the Executive. The Judiciary alone can administer justice whenever there is a conflict between the Executive and the public. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Ministers to take immediate steps to make the Judiciary independent of the Executive. However, I do not support the view that it should be done atonce. In my opinion it should be done after giving full thought to every aspect of the problem, so that some wrong step may not be taken, which may later on prove harmful. It is possible that the judicial system might fail, if the Judiciary is immediately separated from the Executive, because it has been working in co-ordination with the Executive for such a long time. Therefore, there should be a balance between the two classes of functions so that they may be able to work with each other's co-operation for the betterment of the country.

Shri Amir Chand Gupta (Amritsar City Central) (*Hindi*) : Sir, after hearing the discussion on this Resolution, which demands that Judiciary should be made independent of the Executive, I have begun to feel that we are coming nearer to our goal. Every one of us is fully aware of the evil results of the Judicial and the Executive powers resting in the same authority. We all know how the British Government subjected our people to great suffering during our long struggle for freedom. This was possible because the Judiciary was under the influence of the Executive. Most of the hon. Members of this august House had a taste of the British tyranny during the martial law days in the Punjab when full use of the influence of the Executive over the Judiciary was made. Similarly, I fear, that if these two are not separated the same powers may not be used by our Government

against the parties which differ from it politically. I want to submit that we are familiar with the results of the influence of the Executive over the Judiciary and, therefore, desire that Judiciary should be made independent of the Executive immediately.

Sir, I want to tell the hon. Members of this House how I had a chance to taste its bad effects. During the Civil Disobedience Movement, I was challaned and produced in the Court of Sardar Bahadur Sardar Hukam Singh, who was the A. D. M., Ludhiana. He knew that a false case had been fabricated against me on political grounds and did not wish to convict me. He frankly admitted in Court that though I was innocent of the charge framed against me, yet he was helpless in the matter and had to convict me because the Deputy Commissioner had ordered him to do so. Sir, in those days, the Judiciary was working totally under the direction of the Executive.

I also want to remind the hon. Members of this House, that it had always been our slogan during our country's struggle for freedom that Judiciary should be independent and we had made many sacrifices for the achievement of this objective. We shall be committing a great blunder, if in spite of all these sacrifices, we do not make the Judiciary independent now, when we are in a position to do so.

Then, Sir, I beg to submit that the rival political parties are sure to exist in every democratic country. There is an Opposition party in this House also. The Government might some day misuse the power of the Executive over the Judiciary for harming the Opposition, if Judiciary is allowed to remain under the direction of the Executive.

Therefore, Sir, I request the Government to take immediate steps to make Judiciary totally independent of the Executive. I thank Shri Ram Kishan for moving this Resolution in this House.

Master Daulat Ram (Kaithal) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Ram Kishan. Under the present set up a Deputy Commissioner in the capacity of an Executive Officer of the District can order prosecution of any person if such a person in his opinion, acts or is likely to act in a manner which may disturb peace and order in the District. The same Deputy Commissioner who is the prosecutor in the case may either try him or may order him to be tried in a court of one of his subordinate Magistrates. There is every likelihood that Magistrates will not act against the wishes of the District Magistrate who also perform the functions of the Deputy Commissioner. Therefore, in my view unadulterated and undiluted justice

[Master Daulat Ram]

can only be given to the citizens of this State, if the Judiciary is separated from the Executive.

I hope the hon. Members will agree with me when I say that a Magistrate and an Executive Officer cannot go together and especially when you entrust the duties of these two offices to one person, you can never expect justice from him. The very nature of the two duties differs and requires for their discharge two distinct types of mental equipment and outlook which cannot be possessed by the same official. So when this is the state of affairs, people in the State can never expect that they will be done full justice. In fact instances are not lacking where justice has been miscarried.

Moreover, when justice is delayed due to inefficiency and various uncontrollable factors it practically amounts to justice denied. Where one cannot have justice, the people, a community or a nation where such a state of things exists go astray. They lose their balance of mind and everyone knows the results which follow from it. The character of such a nation or community gradually deteriorates. In addition to this, it also brings economic pressure upon the various members comprising that society. For example, if a person belongs to a poor, middle or rich class is denied justice, he becomes frustrated. Where there is frustration there can be no progress of society. Progress of society can only be brought about if the minds of Members constituting that society are properly balanced. When a person or a group of persons or a society at large loses that balance, we can never expect that society to develop and prosper.

In a State where the people are entirely dependent on the produce of their fields and they often resort to litigation if they are administered justice with inordinate delay or if they are denied justice, we cannot even dream that there will be prosperity. In the absence of prosperity you cannot in the least expect even a shadow of peace in that territory. In that part of the country where there is absence of peace, the result is chaos. Chaos leads to so many destructive factors wherein the life of a human being generally speaking becomes difficult if not impossible. Here in the Punjab particularly with regard to the powers given to the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police under the present set up, we feel that these people are over-awing the magistracy. Where the Magistrate is not independent, we cannot feel that justice will be done to the people. As far as I know, they are at present interfering in the affairs of the Magistrates.

Therefore, I see no reason why the Executive should not be separated from the Judiciary. With these words, I commend this Resolution to the House.

Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail (Palampur) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, many of my hon. Friends have given expression to their views regarding the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. I also associate myself with them in extending my full support to the Resolution and wish to submit that justice should be made available not only at the District Headquarters but also in Tehsils, Towns and the Villages.

Sir, I take this opportunity to bring home to the Government the state of affairs prevailing in the Copying Agency in district courts. In spite of the fact that the expenditure on the maintenance of this Department is on the increase every year, its efficiency is not improving with the result that this Agency which otherwise could have augmented the State revenues, has resulted in a deficit of about Rs. 10,000. As a matter of fact I cannot anticipate any sort of surplus at least from this Department, unless the personnel engaged in this work adopt a regular procedure and act promptly in making the supply of the requisite copies available to the people applying for them in time.

Mr. Speaker : This is irrelevant. The hon. Member should confine his remarks to the Resolution.

Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail : Sir, what I wish to submit is that a Magistrate cannot proceed with a case unless the copies of the documents relevant to the case are available and it is this very Agency which can save both the complainant and the respondent from unnecessary botheration and inconvenience. I, therefore, emphasise that the Government should take effective steps to establish a high standard of efficiency in this Department.

Shri Jagdish Chandra (Ludhiana City, North) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, enough has been said in this House regarding the necessity of separating the Judiciary from the Executive. As a matter of fact if the system of Government in a country is not democratic the Judiciary and the Executive are not separated because it does not suit the ruling authority. It is always natural under a Dictatorship, Monarchy or Autocracy that these two departments of administration should be so set up as to remain under the control of one authority. The same was the case in our country during the British regime. Before the advent of freedom a Deputy Commissioner enjoyed both the Executive and the Judicial powers. But, since the dawn of independence a number of long cherished changes have been brought about and more are contemplated.

[Shri Jagdish Chandra]

It is a matter of great pride to us that the fundamental principle of keeping the Judiciary free from any kind of interference by the Executive has been embodied in our Constitution. Administration of equitable justice to and the protection of the fundamental rights of all the nationals of India are the cardinal feature of our Constitution. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that with a view to maintaining the liberties of the masses, our Government should take effective steps for the complete separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. Now that we are a free country, it should be our guiding principle as we were constantly fighting for it during our struggle for freedom. In order to establish high standards of justice in our administration we should implement the Resolution under discussion as early as possible.

Under the existing system the Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors are under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police. It is the police authorities who challan the persons and the P.S.Is' conduct the cases in the Court. It is, therefore, of vital importance that with a view to doing justice the P.S.Is' should be put under the charge of either the Legal Remembrancer or the Public Prosecutor instead of the Superintendent of Police. This thing should be done immediately, because so long as the police wields influence over the P.S.Is' they cannot perform their duties independently.

Mr. Speaker, I would further like to submit that the Magistrates are under the District Magistrate. They have to submit their progress reports showing the number of persons challaned in their Courts and convicted by them. Often it so happens that having found nothing in a case, a Magistrate thinks that justice will be met by discharging the accused but being afraid of the police and also for purposes of sending reports to the higher authorities, he has to award a punishment. He is made to act in accordance with the wishes of the police, as otherwise the police authorities would not hesitate to send a report that the Magistrate was indirectly encouraging crime in the *Ilaga*. A similar report is also sent to the Deputy Commissioner, who being the District Magistrate can harm him. It thus follows that the Executive and the Judiciary being combined the police has always a large scope for direct interference with the work of the Magistrates and cases can never be decided on merits.

In the end, I would emphasise that if for no other reason, at least for purposes of giving justice to everybody as laid down in the Constitution, sincere efforts should be made by our Government to separate the Judiciary from the Executive.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, except for a short time when I had to go out for some urgent business I have been listening very attentively to the speeches delivered on the Resolution under discussion. I have noted down all the points raised by the hon. Members and I believe that those of my friends who spoke in my absence also said similar things.

Taking all these points into consideration I would like to say that as a matter of fact the question of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive has passed all the stages of discussion. The question before us to-day is not whether these two should be separated from each other or not but that in what manner this can be best done. Their separation already stands decided in principle. What we have now to determine is the mode of giving effect to that principle.

The Government has yet to chalk out a plan for the remodelling of the Judiciary and the Executive after their separation. In this connection I may inform the House that the Government has not been sitting idle in the matter. This question was first considered in April, 1950, when it was decided to pursue the matter still further. Accordingly a reference was made to the Government of India. In reply, this State was informed that the proposal, being of a vital importance, involved, besides other complications, certain administrative changes. The central Government, therefore, advised the State Government not to hurry in the matter, as that might only result in loss of time and money. It appears that the Central Government wants to evolve an all India policy which can prove helpfull to all the States in the Country. Acting on this advice we did not pursue the matter further.

After the new Constitution was enforced the matter was again taken up and in May, 1950, an enquiry was made from all the other States as to what steps they intended to take in this direction. In April, 1951, a copy of the scheme was supplied to and opinions invited from the Commissioners, the Judges of the High Court and the High Court Bar Association. Replies have since been received from the Judges and the Commissioners but a report is yet awaited from the High Court Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me that in a matter of such a great importance further steps can be taken only after the Government has received the views of all those concerned or effected.

I am not trying to side-track the issue. I am giving this information in order to show that the Government is alive to the importance of this matter.

[Chief Minister]

I give an assurance that we shall do all that we can. Some of my friends opposite are not in their seats and I hope that those from among them who are present will convey this to their friends.

Mr. Speaker, when the discussion was going on, some of the hon. Members took the opportunity of making some remarks and I think it obligatory on me to answer at least some of them.

Sir, I was submitting that we cannot take any hasty steps for the separation of the Executive from the Judiciary. No one denies that we have to effect this separation. How long it will take to do that depends upon certain factors. In any case, I repeat that this matter is receiving the close attention of my Government. We do feel that unless the Executive is separated from the Judiciary, things cannot and would not improve.

The first thing which I did on assumption of office was to impress upon all the Executive Officers that they must act independently and that their work would be judged from the degree of independence which they brought to bear on it.

The second thing we did was to remove the misunderstanding that existed regarding the relative positions of the Deputy Commissioners and the Superintendents of Police. In this connection, I may add that in every District the Superintendent of Police is under the District Magistrate and not above him. I would ask my hon. Friends in the House to bring to my notice any instance of interference by the police or the Deputy Commissioners in judicial cases and I assure them that I shall take stern action against the persons concerned. The officers who want to perform their duties fearlessly...

Shri Abdul Guffar Khan : How many such officers are there ?

Chief Minister : Sir, I was submitting that the officers want to perform their duties honestly and the required atmosphere has been created for them. There are very few officers who are proving otherwise. My contention is that even if the number of officers who do their work honestly and diligently is small yet those few will set an example to the others.

The real object of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is to ensure that justice is done to all ; and my Government does give that assurance. If the hon. Members also make a combined and concentrated effort to set things right I have no doubt that before long the conditions will considerably improve. Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House—

to the difficulty experienced by us in prosecuting the accused persons in certain cases. In one district, I was told that no body was prepared to give evidence in a case.

I appeal to the Members to help the Government in getting true witnesses for giving evidence in cases. I want to submit that as we want to separate the Executive from the Judiciary, we ourselves should not put unnecessary and undue pressure on the Magistrates. On the other hand they should be allowed to act independently.

I want to request the hon. Members through you, Sir, that for the fulfilment of this colossal task, we should create such an atmosphere in the State as may enable us to get the right type of evidence in cases sub-judice without any difficulty. In this connection I would like to say that even if we selected as an experimental measure certain places and appointed there the best type of police officers who could employ the most scientific methods of investigation for the detection of crimes I doubt if witnesses would come forward to help the Government in investigation. If the people who know do not come forward to tell the truth, you can well realise the difficulty which the Government has to face.

So far as the Government is concerned, I think, it is its duty to try its utmost for detecting and preventing crime in the State. Some of the hon. Members may not agree with me, but I am of the view that if the Government is convinced of the justice of a case but it can not get the offender convicted simply because of non-availability of evidence; there should be no hesitation in resorting to the provisions of the Preventive Detention Act, I am sure the House will approve of such a procedure if justice is to be dispensed in our State. If the facts are such that we are convinced about the truth of a case and yet its judicial success is doubtful for want of proper evidence, the Government will have no hesitation in resorting to the powers conferred on it by the Preventive Detention Act. There is nothing wrong in doing so. Our aim is to check the activities of those who are following a wrong path. If we cannot check them through a judicial trial, other powers of the Government can be exercised to achieve the object. There is no reason why we should not do so provided we act with honest intentions.

As regards the separation of the Executive from the judiciary, although it may amount to a repetition yet I wish to state that our policy is to act with as much haste as possible, consistent with efficiency and good Government.

[Chief Minister]

In this connection it will not be out of place to mention that we are trying our utmost to make the Panchayats effective by giving as many powers to them as possible. By proceeding in this manner we are moving towards the goal of separating Judiciary from the Executive. This is an act in the same direction. Its success will solve most of the problems that we now face. The time that the work of separating the Executive from the Judiciary will take is unavoidable.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : How much time will it take ?

Chief Minister : At this stage I cannot possibly say what length of time this work will take but I can assure the hon. Lady Member that the Government will move in this matter as quickly as possible. I cannot say anything more at this time. But as regards Panchayats I have already stated, that it is the policy and intention of the Government to give them more powers so that it may be possible to decide most of the cases in the villages themselves.

Before resuming my seat I wish to thank some of the hon. Members for the views which they have expressed so frankly. I admit that there are some shortcomings in the existing system. We have got certain things in legacy. But we are trying to improve them. We have a will to do so. The thing that the hon. Members should see is whether we are following the right path or not. We have a desire to mend matters without loss of time. In this task we seek the co-operation of all the hon. Members. The policy of the Government is to associate the M.L.A.'s in its activities. I hope that after the statement made by the Government, this Resolution will be withdrawn.

Sardar Shib Singh (Rania) (Punjabi) : Sir, the hon. Chief Minister has laid stress on the fact that true evidence in judicial cases is difficult to be had. In this connection my experience is that in cent per cent cases the police collects and adduces false evidence. This practice should be put an end to and the Chief Minister would do well to issue instructions to this effect. Not merely instructions should be issued but also thorough steps should be taken to eradicate this evil. I hope the Government will do so.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in line 5, the word "early" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added “by April 1, 1953.”

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the Resolution, the words “in the public services of the State as enjoined by the mandatory provision contained in article 50 of the Constitution of India” be added.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

In view of the fact, that in all advanced and progressive, countries an independent judiciary is considered an absolute necessity for the peace and progress of the country the Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

(The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Friday 4th, July, 1952)

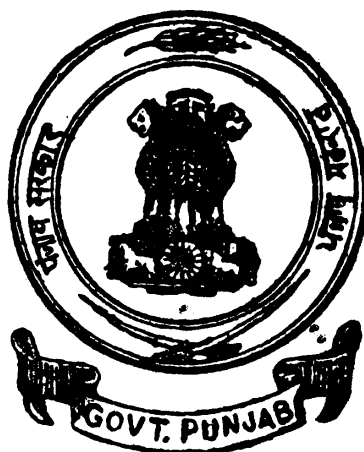
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

4th JULY, 1952.

Vol. II—No. 13.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

FRIDAY, 4TH JULY, 1952.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

SPEAKER'S RULING REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF DIGNITY OF THE CHAIR.

Mr. Speaker : Before the business on today's agenda is taken up, I have to address the House on an important matter. Yesterday, three hon. Members passed certain remarks which were derogatory to the dignity of the Chair and cast reflections on it. I am told that Shrimati Sita Devi remarked that the Ministers were lucky to have, as Speaker, a person who supported and protected them. I have taken strong exception to this remark.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of order, Sir. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assembly provide that the question hour will have precedence over any matter to be discussed on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not stand up, when I am addressing the House. Then it has been pointed out to me that it is not proper for me to use the words 'sit down' again and again as certain Members take objection to this expression. Well, I have consulted several authoritative books on parliamentary procedure and I have to say this regarding this matter. In ordinary circumstances it is not necessary for the Speaker to ask the Members to sit down and it is the duty of the Members themselves to resume their seats automatically as soon as the Speaker rises to address the House on any matter. But when the Members fail to observe this practice and get up while I am on my legs, I have to ask them to sit down or if you so please, to resume their seats. If I have to repeat the words 'sit down' time and again, the fault lies with the Members themselves and I am not to be blamed for it. Besides, I

[Mr. Speaker]

may point out that there is nothing wrong with the expression 'sit down'. It has been used in a ruling which I will read out for the information of the House. It is to this effect-

The Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, rises upon his seat and interrupts the speaker, who is bound to sit down.

It will be seen that the expression 'sit down' occurs in this book and I see no reason why exception should be taken by the Members if I use it. Apart from this the hon. Members will realise how mandatory this ruling is. If the Speaker interrupts the Member who is in possession of the House, he is bound to resume his seat. But what has been my experience? I am really amazed to find that while I am on my legs, hon. Members rise on points of information or get up to raise points of order. Only just a while ago, the House saw that Shri Dev Raj Sethi did so.

Now I would like to say a few words about the remark made by Shri Dev Raj Sethi yesterday that I act in a dictatorial manner. In this connection I would quote from May's Parliamentary Practice.

Reflection upon the character of Speaker and accusations of partiality in the discharge of his duties, by any Member, is a serious offence.

There is yet another ruling on this point.

The ordinary interpretation of the rules and customs of the House is the function of the Speaker himself. He cannot allow any discussion or criticism of his decision except on a substantive motion.

I may tell the House that I shall be very glad if a motion is brought against me but as long as I occupy this Chair, I shall not allow it to be insulted or slighted in any manner. (*Cheers*).

Chief Minister : May I draw the attention of the House, through you, Sir, to a ruling about the functions of the Speaker? It is to the effect that-

He interprets the rules of the House, guides the debates, announces the results of ——— - decides points of order and advises the House on matters not covered by law or custom.

Mr. Speaker : I quite agree. Thank you.

Now the third Member who yesterday made an insinuation against me or the Leader of the House was Shri Ranjit Singh who, however, tendered an apology in a halting and grudging manner. But as regards Shri Dev Raj Sethi's zeal for interpellations, I have gone through the record of the Assembly proceedings of the previous years and after perusing more than a hundred pages I have been able to find only one or two supplementaries asked by him. It is strange that now he displays so much eagerness and enthusiasm for putting supplementary questions. (An hon. Member : because he is now more experienced than before). Since I have to conduct the business of the House according to the Rules, I have to see that the rule governing supplementaries is not infringed. So there is no reason why Shri Dev Raj Sethi should have the idea that I act in a dictatorial manner. I would therefore ask the hon. Members that if they have any thing to complain against me, they are welcome to see me in my office and discuss the matter with me, so that if there be any misunderstanding, that may be removed. If even after that they are not satisfied, they are at liberty to bring forth a substantive motion against me. But I want to make it clear to them that so long as I occupy this Chair, I shall not brook any insult or indignity or any other offence against it. (Cheers). I may not be here tomorrow, but the Chair must be respected. May I inform the House in this connection that in America, Speaker is considered to be next to the President in respect of honour and dignity. But here hon. Members at every step, unmindful of the dignity of the Chair, raise points of order. I have no mind to ask the Members concerned to withdraw what they said yesterday. That is up to them to do or not. But in all honesty and seriousness, I shall make an emphatic request to the House that no such things will be tolerated in future. If anybody does so, he will know and the House knows what action will be taken against him under the Rules. I am sure the House will maintain its dignity and the dignity of the Chair in which it has installed me. (Cheers).

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : No please.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, I may be permitted to explain my position. The hon. Speaker has been pleased to mention my name not once but twice or thrice, in connection with certain conduct of mine and I am entitled to make a personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker : Alright. The hon. Member is permitted to give his personal explanation, but he should be very brief.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The first reference, that was made by the hon. Speaker, about me was with regard to my raising the point of order today.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should explain in regard to what he said yesterday.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Certainly, Sir. But you mentioned my name today also. I request you to allow me to explain my position regarding today's conduct also. If you are not going to permit me to explain my position

Mr. Speaker : Again this is a reflection on the Chair. I would ask the hon. Member to give his personal explanation very briefly.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I shall certainly obey you, Sir. Today I rose on a point of order because I felt that according to rules, the question hour should have precedence over any matter to be discussed on the floor of the House, and that the remarks of the hon. Speaker could be made after the close of the question hour. Therefore my point of order was quite relevant. The second reference was with regard to a remark which I did make. I have no mind to repeat that now since it will offend you. The occasion arose when after certain supplementary questions were asked, which were quite valid and relevant according to my estimate, they were abruptly stopped. If I may be permitted to say so, we were treated like school boys. This made me rise and utter that remark. I may respectfully submit that if you are the hon. Speaker, we are the hon. Members and we do not want to be treated like school boys.

Mr. Speaker : But if the hon. Members behave like school boys, then it is not my fault if I have to enforce the rules. Besides the hon. Member does not appear to be conversant with the rule on which he was taking his stand regarding the question hour. He should know that the question hour depends upon my discretion. I may allow it or may dispense with it. Since all that happened yesterday, happened during the question hour I felt the necessity of making this statement today before taking up the questions, with a view to avoid the recurrence of unpleasant incidents.

Chief Minister: Sir, I quite agree with your observations regarding your discretion in permitting or dispensing with the question hour.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I request the Leader of the House, through you, Sir, to quote the rule clearly, so that a final ruling may be given by you.

Mr. Speaker: No, the matter is closed now.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Yesterday I had not the slightest intention of showing any disrespect to the Chair whose honour and dignity I am keen to maintain. Whatever I said was by way of a joke in reply to the jokes that are sometime made by some of the hon. Ministers. I, however,, express my regret for what I had said and withdraw those words.

Mr. Speaker: The members and the Ministers may exchange jokes if they so desire, but the Chair must be kept out of these jokes.

Starred Questions and Answers.

RESERVATION OF LAND FOR ALLOTMENT TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

***260. Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government announced in 1950-51 reservation of a certain area of land under the Utilisation of Waste Lands Act; if so, the total area so reserved, and the area to be allotted to each political sufferer in the State;
- (b) the last date announced for sending applications by political sufferers for the lease of land;
- (c) the number of applications received by the Government within the prescribed time;

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

- (d) whether any Advisory Committee was set up by the Government to help in making the selection of suitable political sufferers; if so, the personnel of the Committee and terms of its reference;
- (e) the dates on which meetings of the aforesaid Advisory Committee were held and the decision so far taken by it;
- (f) the total area of land thus leased out so far; the list of political sufferers to whom it is leased out and the terms of the lease;
- (g) whether Government intends to give land to other persons on similar terms?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon;

- (a) (i) Yes. The reservation was announced in 1951-52 and not in 1950-51.
 - (ii) 4,000 acres.
 - (iii) 12½ acres.
- (b) 20th August, 1951.
- (c) 1655.
- (d) (i) Yes. Originally the Committee consisted of Chief Minister as Chairman, Development Minister, member and Financial Commissioner, Development, as Secretary but this Committee did not work due to resignation of the Ministry. It was then decided that Additional Chief Secretary should scrutinise the claims of political sufferers with the assistance of the following representatives of political parties :—
 - (i) Dr. Gopi Chand Bhaigava.
 - (ii) Master Tara Singh.
 - (iii) Sardar Partap Singh Kairon.
 - (iv) Giani Kartar Singh.

- (v) Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke.
- (vi) Comrade Ram Krishan.
- (vii) Shri Tilak Raj Chadha.
- (viii) Comrade Sohan Singh Josh.
- (ii) The Committee was required to scrutinize claims and make recommendations to Government for allotment of land.
- (e) (i) The Committee held three meetings at Jullundur Cantt. on the 12th October, 1951, 21st to 23rd November, 1951 and 5th to 6th February, 1952 respectively.
- (ii) At the first meeting the Committee decided the general principles on the basis of which claims were to be considered. At the other two meetings the Committee verified the claims of those political sufferers who appeared before it. In all 374 political sufferers appeared before the Committee. 302 claims were accepted and 72 rejected. It was decided that out of accepted claims, orders of allotment for land should issue in respect of political sufferers who had undergone 5 or more years of imprisonment or any other higher form of sufferings. Orders were issued for allotment of land to 55 such political sufferers. The Committee has now been reconstituted with Chief Minister as Chairman, Development Minister as Member and Financial Commissioner, Development as Secretary and it has been decided to invite additional applications before scrutinizing the remaining claims for selecting 265 more political sufferers.
- (f) No area has actually been leased out so far. Government have now under consideration the question whether or not allotment to 55 political sufferers already selected should be withheld till the remaining 265 political sufferers are selected so as to avoid any complaint about advance allotment of better areas.
- (g) The land is to be leased to political sufferers

[Minister for Development]

for a period of 7 to 20 years under the East Punjab Utilisation of lands Act. Other persons can take waste land on lease under the Act by bidding at the auctions conducted by the Deputy Commissioners for this purpose.

ARREST OF COMRADE MEHAR SINGH.

*363. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to State : —

(a) whether it is a fact that Comrade Mehar Singh, Communist worker, was arrested from the house of Master Hari Singh, Ex-M. L. A., at Model Town, Ludhiana on the night of May 24, 1952, in the presence of Master Hari Singh ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of a thorough search of the House, the police found nothing except office files, which they carried away along with Comrade Mehar Singh ;

(c) whether it is a fact that on May, 26, 1952, a case of dacoity under section 395/397 I. P. C. was instituted against him implicating him in an old dacoity case lying untraced for a long time and a remand for 14 days was taken against him ;

(d) whether it is fact that on the expiry of 14 days, the case had to be withdrawn and Comrade Mehar Singh had to be released ;

(e) the action Government intends taking against those police officials responsible for this attempt to implicate an innocent person in a false dacoity case ?

Sri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) S. Mehar Singh s/o S. Jiwan Singh, caste Jhiwar, resident of village Chananwal, Police Station Shehna, Distt. Barnala Pepsu, was arrested on the night between 22-23/5/52, from House No. 232/I, in Model Town, Ludhiana. Master Hari Singh was also present in this house at the time of arrest. The house, however, does

not belong to Master Hari Singh. It had been rented by Mehar Singh under the fictitious name of Sant Singh.

- (b) A search was carried out and certain files and documents were taken into custody.
- (c) No. The correct position is that Mehar Singh was arrested in an already registered case of Police Station Sadar Ludhiana (F. I. R. No. 230, dated 20. 10. 51, U/Ss 395/397 I. P. C.) He was remanded to Police custody for purpose of investigation for a period of 14 days.
- (d) On the expiry of the period of the remand, Mehar Singh was discharged. There was no occasion to withdraw the case.
- (e) The action of the Police Officers in the matter was bona fide and in accordance with the provisions of law. As such no action against them is indicated.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Does the Government intend to return the files that the Police had taken possession of at the time of arresting Comrade Mehar Singh ?

Chief Minister : Legal action can be taken if anything incriminating is found in the files.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Sardar Mehar Singh was arrested and acquitted after 14 days. May I know the reason for his arrest and ultimate acquittal ?

Chief Minister : Does the hon. Member like me to translate the reply that I have already read out to him ?

Sardar Chanan Singh : It will be very kind of the Chief Minister if he does so.

Chief Minister : I have already said that an impartial enquiry was held and when nothing was found against him he was released.

**ARREST OF MEMBERS OF PANCHAYAT OF VILLAGE
RURKA KALAN DISTRICT, JULLUNDUR**

***364. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that following on altercation with a police informer, many respectable citizens including many members of Panchayat of Village Rurka Kalan, P. S. Phillaur, District Jullundur, were arrested in the first week of November, 1951 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner, Jullundur Division had, on representations being made to him, to personally intervened in the matter and the respectable persons were released later on ;
- (c) the action, if any, taken by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, against the Police officials responsible for the arrests ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

- (a) No, The facts of the case are that one head-watchman of Rurka Kalan who had been instrumental in getting 29 persons of the village arrested for gambling at a public place was mercilessly beaten on his refusal to desist from appearing as a prosecution witness against them (the gamblers). Both his legs were ruthlessly broken and as many as 11 injuries 6 of which were grievous were inflicted on him. A case U/Ss 307/325/148 I. P. C. was registered in which 17 persons including 2 members of the village Panchayat were sent up for trial. Three of the accused were convicted U/S 325 I. P. C. while the others were discharged.
- (b) The Commissioner, Jullundur Division, visited the spot and made enquiries but did not order the release of anyone as the matter was sub-judice.
- (c) The Commissioner did not consider it necessary to take action against any police officer as the case was sub-judice.

**PROCEDURE FOR REFERRING THE CASES OF COMPLAINTS
AGAINST POLICE OFFICIALS.**

***370. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 10 years ago, the Home Secretary to Government, Punjab, issued a circular letter to all the Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab to the effect that all complaints against police officials under the C. P. Code to the Magistrates should in the first instance be referred to the Superintendent of Police of the District concerned ;
- (b) whether the Government is sticking to the same old practice as referred to in part (a) above ;
- (c) whether the Government intends to cancel the said circular ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) No. (b) and (c) . Do not arise.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN DISTRICT KARNAL.

***377. Sardar Gopal Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of punitive police posts that have been set up recently in the Karnal district and the amount of money which will be paid as fine by the inhabitants of the district on account of these posts ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : One. The exact amount of money which will be paid by the inhabitants concerned on this account has not been determined yet.

USE OF LOUD SPEAKERS IN LUDHIANA

***412 Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether it is a fact that about the 15 May, 1952 a Ludhiana Firm dealing in Ferguson Tractors was allowed the use of loud-speaker in its publicity van for a couple of days ;

- (b) Whether it is a fact that during the same period the Communist Party was refused the use of loud-speaker for even four hours ; if so, the reasons thereof ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) No The publicity van of the said Company passed on G. T. Road through Ludhiana City, on 15th May, 1952 en-rout to village Bhore, P.S. Sadar, to give a demonstration of Ferguson Tractors and implements, but did not make use of loud-speakers in Ludhiana on or about 15th May, 1952.
- (b) The use of loud-speakers by the Communist Party in City Ludhiana was disallowed by the District Magistrate in view of the ban already existing.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Commercial companies have been given this permission while the political parties are not being given permission, may I know the reason for this?

Chief Minister : I have stated that no such permission has been granted.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE.

*65. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to State :—

- (a) the total amount of money spent by the Government on the Grow More Food Campaign since March, 1949 in the state ;
- (b) the number of tubewells sunk in the State during this period together with the number proposed to be sunk ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron :

- (a) About Rs. 5,61,12,600/-
- (b) (i) Target 698.
- (ii) Achievement-705.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS OF LAND IN THE STATE.

***151. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the tehsils in the State in which consolidation of holdings of land is being carried on at present ;
- (b) the progress made so far, district-wise up to 31st March, 1952;
- (c) the approximate estimate of cost incurred per acre by Government for consolidation work ;
- (d) the approximate period within which the work of consolidation in the entire State will be completed ;
- (e) the steps so far taken or intended to be taken by the Government to reduce the chances of fragmentation ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kajron : A statement giving the required information is placed below.

[Minister for Development]

Progress made so far districtwise upto 31st March, 1952.										
Tehsils in the State in which Consolidation work of holdings of land is carried on at present.	District.	(b) No. of villages/Area (in acres)					Approximate estimate of cost incurred per acre by Government for consolidation work.	Approximate period within which work of consolidation in the entire State will be completed.	Steps so far taken or intended to be taken by the Government to reduce the chances of fragmentation.	
		Under action.	In which preliminary record prepared	In which measure-ment completed.	Draft scheme published	Reparation-tioned				Consolidated under the new Act, upto 31-3-52 in non-selected tehsils.
(a)							(c)	(d)	(e)	
Ta n Taran, Batala, Garhshankar, Phillaur, Moga Samrala, Rupar, Thanesar, Rohtak, Hansi and Gurgaon tehsils and a few villages of Nurpur tehsil. The consolidation work is also being carried on in few villages of Amritsar, Patti.	Amritsar	268/278274	92/51061	51/26833	72/37945	...	The cost worked out in one tehsil works out to about Rs. 4/4/- per acre.	About six years.	There is a provision in the E.P. Holdings (Consolidation & prevention of fragmentation) Act, 1948 for prevention of fragmentation of holdings & Sections 3 to 13 of the Act deal with this. These will be brought into operation as soon as the size of an economic holdings has been fixed by the Govern-ment.	
Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur	194/123770	92/23194	9/2335	2/260	...				
Kangra.	Kangra.	52/15566	25/3290	...	...	...	
Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	152/104783	44/12576	74/24984	49/60224	..				
Jullundur.	Jullundur.	157/131521	80/46231	764/191	143/113802	32/1314 50/165 11				
Ferozepore	Ferozepore	137/317123	43/43544	17/11524	4/2738	...				
Ludhiana.	Ludhiana.	114/89826	63/36455	68/48939	55/36849	9/2884				
Ambala	Ambala	127/54748	49/15578	64/19491	18/3689	...				
Karnal	Karnal	226/196119	165/109888	113/65163	14/5274	...				
Rohtak	Rohtak	178/323946	97/191167	94/199639	68/1222556	1/438				
Hissar	Hissar	58/212856	48/145504	51/161865	47/144495	3/1954				
Gurgaon	Gurgaon	193/228653	183/214185	135/142062	48/23295	...				

SUPPLY OF CHARRI SEED.

***244. Shri Wadhawa Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to State :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Department, Amritsar placed an indent with the Foodgrains Department for the supply of Charri seed in August-September, 1951 ;—
- (b) whether it is a fact that Foodgrains Department informed the Agriculture Department in March, 1952 that it has not been able to make the requisite transport arrangement ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that when the Agriculture Department Amritsar itself arranged for the purchase of the seed it was not provided any transport facilities; if so, the reasons thereof ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron :

- (a) The District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar, submitted an indent for the supply of Charri seed for Amritsar district in the end of September, 1951. The consolidated requirements of charri seed for the whole State were forwarded to the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Punjab on the 7th November, 1951 for procurement of the requisite quantity of seed for Kharif 1952.
- (b) The Foodgrains Department informed the Agriculture Department on 7th January, 1952 that it was not possible to procure internally the requisite quantity of charri seed owing to the complete failure of Kharif during 1951 and that they had moved the Food and Agriculture Department of Government of India for the allocation thereof from outside the State.
- (c) The Agriculture Department Amritsar (viz. District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar) did not arrange for the purchase of any charri seed, but the Government of India allocated the seed to this State from U. P. and helped in providing transport facilities for movement of this seed.

GARDEN COLONIES IN THE STATE.

***373. Sardar Shamsher Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount so far spent by the Government on the Garden Colonies in the State ;
- (b) the amount spent so far by the State on the staff etc. employed in the offices of the Horticulture Department ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) Garden Colony Scheme.

Year	Rupees
1948—49	22,775
1949—50	84,094
1950—51	7,959
1951—52	31 165
Total	1. 45, 993

- (b) The amount spent upto 31st March 1952 by the State Government on the staff etc. employed in the offices of the Horticultural Section of Agriculture Department excluding Garden Colony Scheme is Rs. 8, 84, 910 as detailed below :—

Year	Rupees
1947—48 (15th August, 47 to 31st March, 1948) .	24, 378
1948—49	99,005
1949—50	2 05227
1950—51	2,29,937
1951—52	3,26,363
Total	8, 84, 910

This amount includes the expenditure incurred on General Fruit Section and other beneficial horticultural schemes being run by the Department of Agriculture.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It has been stated that lakhs of rupees have been spent over Garden Colonies, may I know how this money has been spent ?

Minister : In this connection I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the Budget of the last year.

FAMILY PLANNING IN THE STATE.

***385. Dewan Jagdish Chandra:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the steps, if any, the Government has so far taken for Family Planning in both the rural and urban areas of the State?

Shri Jagat Narain : The matter is under consideration of the State Government.

LAND LEFT BY EVACUEES IN THE STATE.

***386. Dewan Jagdish Chandra :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area of agricultural land left by the Muslim evacuees in the State; and that part of the area which still remains uncultivated and;
- (b) the steps intended to be taken by the Government to get the uncultivated area cultivated?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) 39,61,667 acres. Figures of the area which still remains uncultivated are not yet available.
- (b) (i) Some of the banjar areas in the Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and Karnal districts were broken with the aid of tractors of the Central Tractor Organisation.
- (ii) The Government of India also advanced funds for being given as loans for the purchase of tractors for breaking banjar lands.
- (iii) Such evacuee lands which the allottees fail to reclaim or cultivate before the 31st October 1952, are proposed to be leased out for cultivation under the East Punjab Utilisation of Waste Lands Act after the said date.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister tell us why the figures of uncultivated land have not been supplied ?

Minister : Since the allotment of land has not been completed, it is not possible to give the required information.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister give the area of uncultivated land out of the total area which has so far been allotted ?

Minister : It is not possible to give the information till the whole allotment is completed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : How much time will be required to find out the total uncultivated area ?

Minister : It will take about three months to collect the necessary figures.

CATTLE EXPORTED FROM HISSAR.

***387. Dewan Jagdish Chandra :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the average number of milch cattle exported annually in recent years from Hissar District to parts outside the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron : The information is as follows :—

Year	Number of milch cattle exported outside the State.
1947	14,401
1948	54,834
1949	47,058
1950	70,659
1951	82,623

Sardar Shamsher Singh : Does this figure relate only to the District of Hissar ?

Minister : Yes.

Shri Sher Singh : May I know as to how the hon. Minister has been able to arrive at these figures ? What is the basis on which these figures have been collected and the method adopted for doing so ?

Minister : Mostly these figures are taken from the record of sales done at the cattle fairs which are held in that District. Moreover, the Patwaris have been instructed to keep a record regarding the number of cattle sent out of this State from their beats.

Shri Sher Singh : Is it not a fact that it is not necessary that all the heads of cattle, sold at a fair, shall be sent out of this State and we cannot take these figures as accurate ?

Minister : We take the approximate figure from these records leaving some margin and the figures obtained from the Railway for the cattle sent out of the State by rail are also kept in view while arriving at these figures.

CANALIZATION OF CHOS IN UNA TEHSIL.

***399. Rai Hari Chand :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the canalization of Chos in Una Tehsil is under the consideration of the Government ; if so, the length of time it will take for the starting of the work ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The canalization of chos is in progress not only in Una Tehsil but in all the Tehsils of Hoshiarpur District, 426 miles length of chos has already been trained. The progress of the work will depend on the funds which can be made available for this work. It is, however, hoped that most of the work will be finished in another five years time or so.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Has the survey in Una Tehsil been completed for the canalization of Chos in Hoshiarpur District ?

Minister : Yes. It has been completed once.

Sardar Chanan Singh : By what time does the Government hope to canalize these chos ?

Minister : The answer to this query has already been given in the reply to the main question.

PUNJAB VETERINARY COLLEGE, HISSAR.

***422. Sardar Shamsher Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of students in the Punjab Veterinary College, Hissar at present ;
- (b) the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Government during the last year in running this institution ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) 93
- (b) The total expenditure during the last year (1951-52) on running the Punjab Veterinary College, Hissar, was Rs. 1,41,730.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that only a small number of students seek admission into the Veterinary College of this State because the Government does not pay attractive salaries to veterinary doctors ?

Minister : Possibly it may be one of the reasons.

— — —

1948 ANIMAL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

***423. Sardar Shamsher Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of persons so far punished for the violation of the provisions of the Punjab Animal Contagious Diseases Act, 1948 ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The provisions of the Punjab Animal Contagious Diseases Act, 1948, have not yet been brought into force as the rules to be framed under the Act have not yet been finalised.

The question of punishing any person for the violation of the provisions of this Act does not arise.

Shri Benarsi Das Gupta : What is the reason that these rules have not yet been framed ?

Minister : The hon. Member may attribute this fact to laziness.

LAND OWNERS IN THE STATE.

***474. Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of land-owners paying Rs. 5 or below as land revenue in the State ;
- (b) the number of land-owners paying Rs. 100/- or above as land revenue in the State ;
- (c) the number of land-owners who possess more than 5 acres of agricultural land in the State ; and
- (d) the number of land-owners who possess more than 100 acres of land in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon:

- (a) It is regretted that the required information cannot be collected during this Session.
- (b) As in item (a) above.
- (c) 1159278
- (d) 11685

SUPPLY OF JAWAR SEEDS TO THE CULTIVATORS OF AMRITSAR DISTT :

***488. Shrimati Parkash Kaur :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) (i) whether any officer was deputed by the State to purchase Jawar seed from other States ; if so, when he was sent ;
- (ii) the States from which Jawar seed was purchased during the year 1951-52 ;
- (iii) the total quantity of Jawar purchased till 31-3-52 ; and the total amount paid on the purchasing-price of the Jawar seed till 31-3-52 in each State ;

[Shrimati Parkash Kaur]

- (iv) the average cost price of Jawar seed including carriage and other expenses per maund till 31-3-52 ;
- (b) whether any quantity of Jawar was sent to Amritsar District by the 15th of April, 1952 ; if so; its quantity thereof, if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) (i) whether any Jawar was sent upto 15th May, 1952 to Amritsar ; if so, its quantity ;
(ii) the average cost price of Jawar referred to in part (c) (i) above in the Amritsar District ;
(iii) the total demand of Amritsar District ;
(iv) whether the demand was supplied in full ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) the average price charged per maund of Jawar from the cultivators of Tehsil Patti of Amritsar District ;
- (e) the steps Government proposes to take in future for the supply of Jawar seed in time ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) (i) The Assistant Economic Botanist, Fodder, was deputed to purchase Jawar seed from U. P. and he left for Kanpur on 20th April, 1952 to purchase seed for Kharif 1952.
(ii) For Kharif crop 1951, Jowar seed was purchased from U. P., Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Bhopal. No purchases were made for Kharif 1952 up to 31st March 1952.
(iii) & (iv) In view of the reply at (a) (ii) above the question does not arise.
- (b) No Jawar seed was sent to Amritsar District upto 15th April 1952 for Kharif 1952.

The consolidated demand of 1, 68, 720 maunds of the State was communicated to Food Department on 7th November 1951, who in turn

approached the Central Government in January, 1952 for allotment of Jawar seed to the Punjab State. On 8th April 1952 the Food Department sent a copy of telegram received from U. P. Government stating that they can supply seed from Government stock on receipt of full cost in advance. After making arrangements for funds etc. the Assistant Economic Botanist left for U. P. on 20th April 1952. After testing the germinations etc. of the seed the despatches started from U. P. on 28th April 1952.

(c) (i) Yes, 4,000 maunds.

(ii) Rs. 15/10 -per maund.

(iii) 25,000 maunds.

(iv) 16438 maunds have been supplied and further despatches for which arrangement had been made, were stopped as no Jowar is sown in Amritsar district after June.

(d) Rs. 15/3/6½ per maund.

(e) Steps have already been taken to ascertain the demand of each District for sowing Jowar crop in Kharif 1953. On receipt thereof the demand for the whole State will be submitted to Food Department for arranging the procurement from within the State or import it from other States before March, 1953.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Jawar seed supplied by the Government to the distributing agencies is comparatively more costly than that produced in our own villages and yet inferior ?

Minister : It is really a matter of great pleasure if the people can get seeds of better quality at cheaper rates than the seeds supplied by the Government.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was held and action taken against those depot holders who sold seed of inferior quality to that supplied to them by the Government at higher rates ?

Minister : Yes. So far as the question of the distribution of inferior quality of seeds is concerned, the Government did receive a

[Minister]

Report alleging that the seed being sold was mixed with a lot of dust. An enquiry was conducted into this allegation which revealed that a certain depot-holder had gone out and, in his absence, his servant indulged in this mal-practice where-upon he was taken to task and punished.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Were such complaints received from many places ?

Minister : These must have been dealt with if and when they were received.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Cannot the Government launch a campaign to produce a better quality of seed in our own State instead of importing it from U. P. and other States ?

Minister : This depends upon the efforts of the zamindars of our State. If seed of better quality was forthcoming in our own State there was no fun in importing it from other States.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DISTRIBUTARY (RAJBABA) IN DISTRICT GURDASPUR

*410. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new distributary (Rajbaha) at a distance of about three furlongs from village Khorey Bet, Illaqa Dera Baba Nanak, district Gurdaspur, has been constructed ;
- (b) whether representations have been received from the inhabitants of the village by the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, complaining that the said distributary has divided the village lands into two parts and some villagers have to walk three miles or more to reach their lands ;
- (c) whether the Government contemplates taking any action on the representation.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

- (a) Yes. Ramdass Minor of Fatehgarh Distributary has been constructed.
- (b) Yes. A representation was received from the villagers of Khode Bet for the construction of a bridge in front of their village.
- (c) No. It is impossible to construct a bridge for every village. Bridges are constructed at suitable distance apart.
- (d) A bridge already exists at a distance of about 4,500 ft. from the village.

**REPRESENTATION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE
MANOUR DEVA**

***411. Sardar Chanan Singh :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether he has received a representation from some residents of Village Manour Dewa, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur, regarding the hardship resulting from the closing of Shehrwah Minor of Aghawah Canal (Sidhwan Division) ; if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government on this representation ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh, No such representation has as yet been received.

It may, however, be stated that the Shehrwah Minor of Aghawah Canal has not been closed. The question of hardship therefore does not arise.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what remedy is open to us if the Government does not care to reply to such representations ?

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN THANESAR TEHSIL

***472 Shri Benarsi Das Gupta :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state : —

- (a) whether it is a fact that no electric connections for the supply of power for tube wells have been given to the

[Shri Banarsi Das Gupta]

agriculturists adjoining Thanesar in spite of their repeated demands for the same, if so, the reason therefor ;

- (b) the time the Government will take to supply power connections for such tube wells ;
- (c) the date by which the Government will supply electric connections to the public in the town of Thanesar ;
- (d) the rate at which the power will be supplied to Agriculturists and others and ;
- (e) whether there is any scheme under consideration of Government relating to the power line being extended to Pehowa, Ladwa, Shahabad ; if so, the time likely to be taken for its completion ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

- (a) Yes financial justification in respect of the electrification of the tube wells adjoining Thanesar is under examination.
- (b) If these works are found to be financially justified, it will take 3 to 4 month to supply power to the tube well adjoining Thanesar.
- (c) As per items (a) and (b) above.
- (d) As -/2/- net per unit has been fixed for supply of Thermal Power for tubewell irrigation, no other rates have yet been fixed.
- (e) Yes. Pehowa-from our existing thermal power by the end of 1954.

Ladwa and Shahabad, if any thermal power is spare, by March or April, 1953 otherwise these towns will be electrified when Nangal Hydrel power becomes available in early 1954.

Shri Prabodh Chandara : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any restrictions have been improved on the obtaining of electric connections ?

Minister : I require notice.

SMALL SCALE BICYCLE PARTS MANUFACTURES IN THE STATE

***365. Sardar Nidhan Singh :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state : —

- (a) the number of small scale bicycle parts manufacturers in the State and the number of persons dependent on these industries ;
- (b) the names of the various cycle parts being manufactured, their quality and the amount in which they are being produced ;
- (c) the number of manufacturers who are getting iron and steel quota and the total quantity of steel being allotted annually for the industry and ;
- (d) the number of manufacturers who have been granted loans under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, the amount given as loan and the amount of any other financial assistance given ;
- (e) the kind of technical aid, facilities of marketing and any other measures adopted by the Government to propagate the cause of the industry ; and
- (f) the number of small scale bicycle parts manufacturing factories and the number of persons employed in them in the years 1948-49, 1950-51, 1951-52 ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) The number of concerns engaged in bicycle-parts making industry at the close of 1951 stood at 241 while the number of workers was 2180. Taking the number of dependents on each worker, on an average, to be three, the total number of persons dependent on this industry will come to 6540.
- (b) The names of various cycle-parts manufactured in the State are given below :

forks, Carriers, stands, bumperas, forks, columns, pedals, pedal axles, pedal plates, pedal bars, B. B. cups, B. B. bottom axlss, hub cones, hub axles, handles, handle

[Minister for Finance]

bolts, frame cup, cotter pins, brakes, brake clips, brake shoes, seat pillars, freewheel pawls, pump nozzles, pump clips, nipple keys, spanners (13 holes), ball racers (screwed), ball clips, springs of all kinds, saddles release, *ball racer set of 3*, saddles Dunlop pattern, lamp brackets, chain cases, bells, cycle grips, hub cups cranks, *central axles*, gear cases, B. B. rings.

The quality of goods manufactured is fairly good. The production of goods is estimated to be worth Rs. one crore per annum.

- (c) The number of manufacturers who are in receipt of iron and steel quota, at present, stands at 88. The total quantity of steel allotted annually is 804 tons.
- (d) Loans to the extent of Rs. 2,500/- were granted under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act in two cases, while a sum of Rs. 3,500/- was given in the form of subsidy in two other cases to cycle-parts manufacturers in the State.
- (e) Besides financial aid as mentioned under (d) above, the Government contemplates to have a scheme for rendering technical advice to cycle-parts manufacturers by employing foreign technicians. In order that the industry may have the fullest opportunity of selling its goods in the home market, protective duty of 60 per cent on British and 70 per cents on Non-British goods has been levied. The import of foreign cycle-parts is also being regulated on a restricted quota basis.
- (f) The requisite information regarding number of small scale bicycle-parts manufacturing factories as also the number of persons employed therein, as far as available, is given below:

Year	No. of factories.	No. of workers.
1948-49	49	Not available.
1949-50	179	700
1950-51	220	Not available.
1951-52	241	2180

Sardar Nidhan Singh: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if, with a view to stimulating local enterprise in this industry, any restrictions have been imposed on the industrialists of other States who wish to set up this industry in the Punjab?

Minister. No special restrictions have been imposed on outsiders but local enterprise is certainly encouraged.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if he has received any representation to the effect that the requisite quantity of steel for the industry was not forthcoming?

Minister. Yes, the Government did receive such a representation. But since this matter is the direct concern of the Government of India, it was forwarded to it for necessary action. I may however, tell the hon. Member that I myself had an interview with the Central Minister for Industries and Commerce and discussed this matter with him. Earnest Efforts are being made to make available the requisite quantity of steel for the purpose.

SALES TAX RULES IN THE STATE

***368 Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the Minister for labour be pleased to state whether a deputation of the prominent members of the Punjab Beopar Mandal saw him and the Chief Minister, in connection with the revision of the sales tax rules; if so, with what result?

Chaudhri Sunder Singh:

First part Yes.

Second part Demands made by the deputation are receiving the attention of Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Will the hon. Minister please tell us as to when will the Government arrive at a final decision in the matter?

Minister: Very soon.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if the Government proposes to take necessary steps in the matter during the current Session?

Minister: Efforts will be made to do so.

TRANSFER OF ALLOTTED LAND?

***487. Shrimati Parkash Kaur :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to State :—

- (a) whether any displaced person is authorised to transfer the whole or part of the lands allotted to him under the quasi-permanent allotment ;
- (b) the total area fixed for being taken away from the displaced persons seeking allotment in the garden colony area at town Patti, District Amritsar.
- (c) whether any person has been allotted any area in the garden colony referred to in part (b) above, who was entitled to less than the prescribed area and to make up whose deficiency, his brother was asked to transfer a certain part of his evacuee land, if so, the name of the allottee concerned.
 - (i) the area he was entitled to ;
 - (ii) the area taken from his brother or any other relation to make up the deficiency ;
- (d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) No. But in the case of garden colonies it is permissible for a son, who owns no land in his own name, to offer his father's land in lieu of the garden colony unit allotted to him. It is also permissible for an allottee of a garden colony unit, if the area of land allotted to him is not enough to cover the total value of the garden unit, to offer land of his relatives to make up the deficiency.
- (b) 26 standard acres and 7 Units for a full unit garden colony site ;
- (c) Yes. (A). Sardar Karam Singh S/o Shri Vir Singh.
Full unit,
(B). Lieut. Bhagwan Singh S/o Hira Singh.
Half unit.
 - (i) (A). 25 standard acres and 4 Units.
(B). Nil.

(ii) (A). Brother Shri Manjit Singh. I. S. A.
3 Units,

(B). Father Shri Hira Singh 13 S. A.
3½ Units.

(d) In view of the answer to part (a) above, no action is called for.

SEWAGE SCHEME OF PALWAL.

***305. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to State :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government surveyed the Municipal limits of Palwal Town recently in connection with the sewage scheme ;

(b) when the scheme is likely to be carried out ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

GRANT-IN-AID TO THE DISTRICT BOARD FROM THE COMMUNICATION BOARD, PUNJAB.

***306. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

(a) the aid given to the District Boards of Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon for purposes of Buildings, Roads and Education during the year 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52.

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a disparity in the amount allotted to each of the District Boards, if so, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Grant paid for Road Works during:—

[Minister for Public Works]

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52.
Rohtak.	81,479	89,803	46,441
Hissar.	36,291	34,060	26,761
Gurgaon.	82,899	17,126	28,891

(b) The grants are given according to certain set principles and there is no disparity in the amounts allotted to different District Boards.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the reasons why the grants were gradually reduced every year ?

Minister : The amount of a grant is determined according to the urgency of the demand and the availability of funds for each district.

Shri Dharm Vir Vasisht : Is it sanctioned on the recommendations of the District Boards ?

Minister : All the factors are taken into consideration. Final decision, however, rests with the Government.

RATION DEPOTS IN LUDHIANA CITY.

***356. Sardar Gopal Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state the total number of Ration Depots operating at present in Ludhiana City along with the number of such depots allotted to the members of the Scheduled Castes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

Sixty Seven depots Two of them are held by members of the Scheduled Castes.

Sardar Gopal Singh. May I know the basis on which the number of ration depot for the Scheduled castes is fixed ? Is it fixed on any percentage or does it represent the remainder from the share allotted to Congress men ?

Minister. No such percentage is fixed but the conditions can be relaxed in the case of Harijans.

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES IN LOCAL BODIES IN THE STATE.

* 473. **Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta** : Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state the names of the Municipal Committees, Town Committees and District Boards in the State where seats for Scheduled Castes have not been reserved ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

1. The list is given below.

2. Seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes on all Local Bodies in proportion to their population in the local areas concerned, as in the case of the State Legislative Assembly for a period of 10 years. On the basis of their population figures, the Scheduled Castes were not entitled this time to any reserved seats on the local bodies in the list.

Statement showing the names of Local Bodies where no seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Name of District.	Municipal Committees.	Town Committees.	District Boards.
I	2	3	4
Hoshiarpur	—	Una.	—
Ferozepore.	Zira	Bucho Mandi Jalalabad Guru Har Sahai	—
Kangra.	Dharamsala.	Kangra	—
Amritsar.	Khem Karan.	Palampur	—
Ambala.	—	Buriar	—
Rohtak.	—	Gohana.	—
Karnal.	Thanesar	—	—
Gurgaon.	Balbgarh.	Hailey Mandi.	—

Note :— The question of reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes on the following Local Bodies is pending as their constitution has not yet been fixed :—

(1) **Municipal Committees :—** Karnal, Kaithal and Jagadhri.

[Minister for Local Government]

(2) Town Committees :— Urmar Tanda, Banga and Tankanwali.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta: Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state if any seat has been reserved for Harijans in the Ladwa Town, where there population is sufficient ?

Minister. The seats are reserved on the basis of population and if the population is too small to justify the reservation of even a single seat, no seat is reserved.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta. But is there any seat reserved at Ladwa ?

Minister. I don't think so. I want notice.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta. May I know the names of the towns where such seats are reserved ?

Minister. I want notice.

Sardar Gopal Singh. How much population is required to reserve one seat for Harijans ?

Minister. I can not say off hand.

CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN MEDICAL COLLEGE, LUDHIANA

*820 **Shri Ram Kishan:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government has decided to give any financial aid to the Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana for raising its standard to a 1st Grade College; if so, on what conditions?

Shri Jagat Narain: A grant-in-aid of Rs. one lakh was given to the management of the Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, during the year 1951-52 for upgrading the institution to the M. B. B. S. standard. The question of grant of further financial assistance to this institution for this purpose and the conditions to be imposed on the management of the institution in this connection are under consideration of the State Government.

Shri Sher Singh: Has the grant been increased by the Government ?

Minister for Education: Not so far.

Shri Sher Singh: When does the Government propose to do so?

Minister: Very soon.

**UN STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
GRANT OF FIRE-ARMS LICENCES TO HARIJANS IN THE STATE**

102. Sardar Khem Singh : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of applications received from the Harijans for the licences of fire arms since August, 1947 district wise in the State;
- (b) the number of licences sanctioned;
- (c) the number of rejections and the reasons thereof in each case?

SHRI BHIM SEN SACHAR:

(a) Amritsar	—	4
Jullundur	—	70
Gurdaspur	—	5
Ludhiana	—	16
Kangra	—	21
Ferozepur	—	5
Hoshiarpur	—	35
Ambala	—	16
Karnal	—	134
Hissar	—	242
Gurgaon	—	26
Rohtak	—	100
Simla	—	7
(b) Amritsar	—	4
Jullundur	—	24
Gurdaspur	—	1
Ludhiana	—	9
Kangra	—	14
Ferozepur	—	4

[Chief Minister]

Hoshiarpur— 18

Ambala — 8

Karnal — 21

Hissar — 128

Gurgaon — 5

Rohtak — 20

Simla — 3

(c) Amritsar — Nil.

Jullundur — 6. applications were rejected as they were not considered fit to be granted arms licences —40 applications are under consideration.

Gurdaspur — 4. The applicants were not supported by the Police.

Ludhiana — 7. The applicants were not considered desirable to hold weapons.

Kangra — 7. The applications were considered unfit to handle arms

Ferozepur — 1. The application was rejected on medical grounds.

Hoshiarpur — 17. The applicants were not recommended by the Police as deserving and desirable for the grant of arms licences.

Ambala —8. The applications were not recommended by the Police.

Karnal — 97. Applications were rejected as the Police had not recommended and 16 are pending for Police enquiries.

Hissar — 114. Applications were rejected as these were not recommended by Police.

Gurgaon — 21. The Police did not recommend the applicants as deserving cases.

Rohitak — 78 The applicants were not recommended by Police.

Simla — 4 The applicants were not recommended by the Police.

**COMPENSATION FOR LANDS REQUISITIONED BY THE STATE
GOVERNMENT.**

103. **Shri Babu Dyal:** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether any compensation for requisitioned land for rehabilitation of refugees has been disbursed in the State; if so, a district wise list of the rates of compensation per *bigha* in every district be laid on the Table.

Sardar Ujjal Singh: A statement giving the required information relating to the land acquired for urban rehabilitation purposes for New Townships, Cheap Housing Colonies and Industrial Areas in each District is placed below.

[Sardar Ujjal Singh]

District	Name of Township, Cheap Housing Colony for which land has been acquired.	Rate of Compensation.	Remarks.
Gurgaon	Gurgaon and Palwal	Evacuee area has been given in exchange in lieu of the land acquired.	
	Rewari	Rs. 1000/- per acre	Rs. 1,57,533 had been placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioner Gurgaon, for giving compensation, almost all the amount has been disbursed.
Jullundur	Jullundur (including Industrial Area).	Chahi. Rs. 1880/9/6 Barani Rs. 1015/9/- per acre.	Out of Rs. 660796/14/3 placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur. Rs. 179958/13/- have been paid. Action for the disbursement of the balance amount is being taken.
Gurdaspur	Pathankot and Batala		Compensation is still to be paid Total amount so far assessed is as under, Evacuee Non Evacuee Pathankot 35722 15256 Batala 13096 Nil.
Ludhiana	Ludhiana and Khanna (including Industrial Area, Ludhiana)	Non-evacuee owners are to be compensated in kind from out of the evacuee land reserved for the purpose.	In most of the cases the compensation in kind has been given.
Hissar	Hissar	Nehri, Rs. 88/8/6 per bigha Tal. Rs. 52/1/3 per bigha Banjar and Ghair Mum kin Rs. 36/7/3	Compensation to non-evacuee. paid in kind in most cases.

Karnal	Panipat (Industrial Township only).	Rs. 125/- per bigha.	Compensation for the evacuee land only acquired for Industrial Township at Panipat has been paid in the District. Compensation for the Land acquired for other purposes is still to be paid.
Rohtak	Rohtak (Township) Rohtak (Cheap Housing Colony).	Rs. 908/- per acre flat rate. Nahri. Rs. 892/12/0 and Barani Rs. 835/- per acre.	Rs. 29752/9/6 have been placed at the disposal of D.C. Rohtak for giving compensation for the land acquired for New Township, Cheap Housing Colony and Industrial Areas.
	Sonepat. Township and (Industrial Area) Cheap Housing Scheme.	Rs. 248 per acre flat rate at Sonepat Nahri Rs. 800/-; Barani Rs. 667/-, Bhud Rs. 400/- Banjar, Rs. 300/- Ghair Mumkin Rs. 250/ per acre at Khanpur.	In some cases compensation has been paid in cash while in others it has been done in kind.
	Bahadurgarh (Industrial area)	Bahadurgarh Rs. 464/ per acre Saukhul Rs. 320/- per acre.	
Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	Rs. 2166/- per acre.	Rs. 227318/- have been placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur for giving compensation for the land acquired for township.
Ambala	Ambala. 1. Township	Rs. 1100/- per acre.	Funds amounting to Rs. 923340/11/- have been placed at the disposal of D. C. Ambala for giving compensation for the land acquired for different purposes in the District.
	2. Cheap Housing Colony.	Rs. 1750/- per acre	In this case also compensation has been paid either in cash or in kind.
	Jagadhari Township.	Govindpur Rs. 900/- per acres Abdullapur Rs. 1500/ per acres and Mdun-damajra.	

[Minister for Finance]

	Cheaphousing Colony Industrial area	Rs. 1157—/per acre.	
Village	Barani	Banjar	Ghair Mumkin
Mewda Majra	1420	1500/-	1000
Abdullapur	1500	110/-	700
Muminda	1000	700/-	500
Chandpur	500	375	250

Note:— Payment of compensation in all the above mentioned cases is in progress.

DEMAND FOR GRANT

Agricuture

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members, now that the question hour is over, we have to take up the next item on the agenda i.e. the demand relating to Agriculture. To facilitate my job both the Ministerial and opposition groups have given the names of the Members of their respective parties who intend to speak to-day. So the Members need not take the trouble of standing time and again. I shall myself call upon the Members to speak. The other thing I want to tell you is that the cut motions should be moved according to the previous practice.

Sardar Shamsher Singh (Ludhiana Sadr) (Punjabi) : Sir, I want to bring to your notice that our Government is doing nothing constructive to raise the Punjab from its present position. Instead the Government is making it weaker. what the Government ought to have done was that they should have infused new life in the Administrative machinery, but they are doing things in a very haphazard way. If really our Government intended to uplift the starving millions of this State they would not have spent the public money amounting to Rs 2/3/4 crores so extravagantly on Police. They could easily curtail expenditure on this item. Most of the public money goes into the pockets of big officers as their salaries. The whole burden of these fat salaries falls on the poor peasants. As a matter of fact the Government is meting out step motherly treatment to this down trodden class of society. We can alleviate much of their distress by forming credit Finance corporation as has been done for industry by establishing an Industrial corporation with 2 crores of rupees We should give them subsidies for wells, pumps, agricultural implements and seeds. The

Government should have ear-marked at least four crore rupees for improving the hard lot of these backward people instead of 58 lakhs, 3/4 of which will go into the pockets of departmental officers. Our Government takes shelter behind hackneyed excuses of financial stringency or paucity of funds. I have not the least hesitation in saying that if the Government had a mind to help the common man they could easily do away with the Public Relations Department. Grow More Food department is also a white elephant. The officers of this department go to the villages and instead of encouraging the villages they threaten them that if they do not increase their produce their land revenue would be increased. Money is being uselessly spent on the Chandigarh Project, which work could be easily postponed for some years and thus we could spend our energy and money on Bhakra Project and accelerate that work.

Sardar Partap Singh : Most of the money for Chandigarh is coming from the Central Government.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : Then the Central Government should allow the same money for the benefit of the down trodden ruralities. No doubt police is essential for the maintenance of peace and security in the State but my contention is that if we solve the problems of food and clothing, there shall be no crime in the State.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the top heavy expenditure on big officers. The Government puts forth the excuse that they have entered into contract with them.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Where is the need of entering into a contract with a thief ?

Sardar Shamsher Singh : Our Government is honouring its contract with high salaried officers but have forgotten all promises with the common man. Our Ministers promised to reduce the Abiana and provide other amenities of life. All those promises are now forgotten.

Sardar Partap Singh : First we shall dispossess you of your lands.

Sardar Shamsher Singh : Nobody can deprive us of our lands. Our land will remain in our ownership. Then Sir, Agricultural education should be made compulsory in our institutions. As the people do not take much interest in agriculture, we should impart education in this subject in the primary classes.

[Sardar Shamsheer Singh]

Then, Sir, I would ask the Government to set up garden colonies. Poultry has been completely neglected. Land consolidation has made no progress at all and the peasants are put to a great hardship.

Doors of services have been closed on the ruralites, on the plea that no reservations are allowed for any class in our Constitution. Open competition is the way to get a job. Sir, when the Government have not provided equal educational facilities in the rural areas as they have come in the cities. These competitions are a device for enabling the urbanites to monopolise the services. It is like giving one man a good rifle and other kits and allowing others to remain naked and asking them to fight. If our Government has closed the doors of services on the ruralites, it should have been kind enough to spend 4 crores of rupees to improve the lot of the agriculturists.

Mr. Speaker : As the House is to adjourn at 2 p. m. today and an hour and a half will be taken up by the hon. Minister for Development and for the putting of motions to vote, I request the hon. Members to confine themselves to the subject under discussion. There are many hon. Members who wish to take part in the discussion. The general tendency is that every one thinks himself a specialist and wants more time. It is not possible for me to satisfy all when the time at our disposal is so short. So I would request the hon. Members to be brief in their speech.

Sardar Dalbir Singh Gohar (Fatehabad) (Hindi) : Sir, before giving expression to my views, I wish to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Although I do not claim to be a specialist on this subject yet I consider it my duty to lay before the House my views regarding the conditions in which our people are living. In 1947 when the country was partitioned, the tenants were also divided into two categories. On the one side there are tenants of those landlords who are residents of East Punjab while on the other there are those who worked on evacuee lands. I wish to bring to the notice of this august House that the condition of those tenants who worked on evacuee lands is far from satisfactory. Most of them are in a miserable plight. There have been cases of their ejection. In this connection my submission is that our State should recognise the worth of all individuals whatever their mental calibre may be, and provide suitable work for them. Those who were forcibly ejected should

be given lands for cultivation.

In our illaqa there is enough land lying fallow. In some of the villages vast areas are lying uncultivated, and it is just possible that by the passage of time jungles may grow upon them. So in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign, I would advise the Government to settle such ejected tenants on these lands.

Sir, I would like to tell the House that in the villages there are many people who know the work of agriculture but who are unable to do any service to the cause of Grow More Food simply because they have been deprived of lands and other facilities connected with it. It is my considered opinion that such persons who can cultivate lands should be provided with full facilities, so that they may be in a position to help the country increasing the production of food grains and to help themselves and their families. This step will accelerate the Grow More Food Campaign, more than any amount of publicity and drum beating.

Another thing which I wish to state in connection with Agriculture is with regard to tractor cultivation. Generally, the tendency among the people who own tractors is that more and more area should be brought under tractor cultivation. They should not have such attitude because by doing so they displace people from the lands they cultivate. What they should do is that they should do intensive cultivation with the help of tractors.

As regards pumping sets, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to such areas where irrigation by canals is not possible or is difficult. In this connection the people of Fatehbad will feel obliged if the Government take the claims of that tehsil into consideration in the matter of installing pumping sets. There is enough water under the soil in that area and there the pumping sets will be successful.

Sardar Hari Singh (Dasuya) (Punjabi) : Sir, every body knows that our country, specially our State of Punjab, depends mainly on agriculture. Therefore so long as the problem of tenants and Zamindars is not solved satisfactorily, no progress in the sphere of agriculture

[Sardar Hari Singh]

is possible. Efforts are needed on the part of the Government to check the diseases that ruin most of the crops of our poor peasants. For instance, cotton and sugar cane are often ruined by various diseases and pests. The question of supplying seeds to the farmers at the time of sowing is also an important one and deserves our attention. What is the use of supplying seeds at a time when there is no necessity for them. We have also to consider that at some places the prices of seeds are very high and it is often difficult for the poor villagers to buy them at such high rates. For example, in Hoshiarpur District some of the seeds are sold at four seers for a rupee. This price is prohibitive. Another problem is that of water for irrigation purposes. At places like Hoshiarpur where canal irrigation is not possible pumping sets should be installed and immediate steps should be taken to consolidate the holdings in that Ilaga. The supply of manure should be increased by setting up a factory at Jullundur where already machine is lying idle. The bones for the purpose can be had there in abundance.

Another thing towards which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that unless some satisfactory solution of the tenancy problem is found, the production of food grains cannot increase. At present the relations between the landlords and the tenants are highly strained and sometimes murders are even committed.

I was glad to hear the hon. Development Minister say that all the chos in District Hoshiarpur would be controlled within five years. We will be satisfied if this work is completed even in five and a half or six years instead of five but in order to raise hope in our minds at least one or two chos should be controlled within the current year.

Some hon. Members referred to the necessity of gardens. I agree that there should be good gardens in every state but in this connection I would like to point out the irregularities which are being committed by the Forest Department. Provisions of Sections 38 and 45 of the Forest Act are causing great hardship to the people. The gardens should be away from the towns, so that the people living there may not have to suffer on account of the application of these sections of the Forest Act.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh (Moga-Dharmkot) (Punjabi) : Sir, the Punjab occupies the most important place in the whole of India, in respect of agriculture. I was glad to know that the Government wanted to improve the condition of the tenants but uptil now they are being unfairly treated. The policy of divide and rule, which was adopted by the British Government for ruling over this country, is being followed with regard to the tenants. The Government says that it would make them the owners of land but I find that they are being ejected by the land-lords. The sowing season has commenced but the tenants are sitting idle at their homes and being unable to make their both ends meet, they are disposing of their cattle. So long as the tillers are not made the owners of land, there can be no improvement in the production of foodgrains in the State.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the work done in connection with the consolidation of holdings. It is being done in such a manner that no land is being left even for the cremation of the dead. The Government should instruct its officials to set apart some land for that purpose.

As regards the Department of Agriculture, when the Director went to Ludhiana, he was shown a 'gowara' field. He said that the crop was very good but the cotton plants should have been sown in rows. The cultivators had to tell him that it was *gowara* and not cotton. What useful work can a department do, whose Director could not distinguish between cotton and *gowara*? Some-time later, a deputation representing the cultivators met the hon. Minister for Agriculture. They enquired from him as to what the Government was doing for the benefit of the cultivators. He replied that he understood everything very well. When they asked him when the moong crop was sown, he enquired from them whether they wanted to know about the split or the unsplit moong.

Minister for Finance : Where did the hon. Member read this story ?

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh : Then they met the Chief Minister and told him about the reply which they got from the Minister. He asked them whether they wanted to know about the husked or the unhusked moong. When this is the state of affairs, what good can we expect from the Agriculture Department ? I shall request the Government to pay special attention to improving the lot of tenants.

[Sardar Mukhtiar Singh]

Their ejectment should be immediately stopped. A large number of ejected tenants expect the Government to come to their aid. Some law should be immediately passed to help them.

When taccavi loans were advanced to the cultivators for digging wells, they were told that only half the amount would be recovered and the other half would be remitted. In spite of that promise, the Government is trying to recover the total amount of Rs. 1,750 along with interest. Warrants of attachment have been issued in some cases. The hon. Minister should instruct the department concerned to recover only half the amount of taccavi loans. The Government should not only make the tenants the owners of land, but it should extend the same help to urban tenants also. The tenants of houses and shops in urban areas should be declared owners of property which they have been occupying for a certain number of years.

Shri Moh Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (Hindi) : Sir, I have carefully listened to the speeches delivered by the members of the Opposition. While some of them made constructive and useful suggestions, the criticism offered by others was very surprising. In 1947, when India became free and the Punjab was partitioned, this State was deficit in food grains. We should take pride in the fact that within four or five years, we have become surplus in that respect. It pained me to notice that this important fact had been completely ignored by some of the hon. Members. I do not mean to say that the Agriculture Department did all that it could do or should have done. Keeping this thing in view, I want to offer a few suggestions for improving the working of this Department.

A very meagre amount was provided for crop competitions in the Budget for the last year and the provision this year is also very small. If a larger sum is provided for this work and more money is given in the form of prizes to those who are adjudged the best cultivators in the crop competitions, it would lead to better results. The farmers will pay greater attention to producing more. Competitions serve as an incentive and produce a healthy spirit among the cultivators. If more money is spent on crop competitions, the production of foodgrains in the State will increase.

Now I have to say something with regard to the enforcement of the

provisions of the Punjab Utilisation of Waste Lands Act. This Act was passed with a view to bring under cultivation six lakh acres of waste land especially those in Karnal district. The manner in which the powers vested in the officers under this Act are being exercised is resulting in a great hardship which is very regrettable indeed. Fairness and justice demanded that these lands after reclamation should have been given for cultivation to the land-hungry people, landless tenants who have been thrown out of work as a result of the allotment of evacuee land to the refugees. Very little of the waste land so far reclaimed—hardly two per cent of it—has been given to the tenants of the former Muslim landlords. Such is the unsympathetic attitude of the officers concerned. I, therefore strongly urge that this Act be suitably amended so that the waste land that is reclaimed in a particular village is first offered to landless people living there and those small zamindars who have small holdings of 2 to 4 bighas, so that they may be enabled to eke out a living for themselves. Only after the needs of the residents of the village have been met and if any more land is left, it may be allotted to others.

Another suggestion that I have to offer is with regard to the work of consolidation of holdings. In tehsil Thanesar where this work has been started, the work of allotment of parcha nos. is being delayed. I am afraid this delay will adversely affect the cultivation of *Kharif* crops. The Settlement Officer incharge of consolidation work may be directed to expedite the matter.

Then I want to stress once again the necessity of promoting agricultural education in this State. At present it is not receiving the attention it deserves. In this connection I propose the establishment of a Rural University. The waste lands in Karnal may well be utilised for this purpose. The Government should advance some money in the form of loan to facilitate the opening of this University which can, in my opinion, turn out every year a batch of one hundred workers trained in the most modern methods of agricultural improvement.

A few words with regard to the announcement of the Government to give training in tractor driving to 40 persons in Karnal district and I have done. 75% of the candidates to be admitted to this class are to be displaced persons and each of them is to be granted a scholarship of Rs.30/- per mensem, while the rest of the candidates will have to pay

[Shri Mool Chand Jain]

a fee of Rs.10/- per mensem. Now, Sir, my submission is that 5 years after the partition, such discrimination between displaced and non-displaced persons is unjustified and more so in a district where 70% of the population is of the former category.

Rai Raghuvir Singh (Seraj) (Hindi) : Sir, I propose to dwell today on the acts of omission and commission of the Agriculture Department so far as my ilaqa i. e. Kulu Sub-Division is concerned. Side by side with it I intend giving some suggestions for the proper utilisation of hilly lands which are more subject to natural calamities than the lands in the plains. I want to make it clear at the very outset that the potentialities of this ilaqa are such that given the proper attention it can be converted into the Switzerland of India-the pride of the country. But it is a pity that land in the ilaqa is not being put to the best possible use. In this connection I deplore the decision not to choose it for starting a Community Project, because by not doing so we have done incalculable harm to ourselves. Circumstanced as this ilaqa is, modern agricultural machines such as tractors, etc, cannot be of any use to it. The only machines that can be of help for farming purposes in this ilaqa are the thrashing and winnowing machines. The real problem that agriculture faces here is the fear of natural calamities such as sudden torrential rains washing away the crops and effacing the outcome of the sweating labour of the peasants in a few minutes. Then there is the calamity in the form of hail-storms which often reduce the almost ripe crops to nothing, confronting the poor villagers with the problem of how to make two ends meet. Therefore, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command I would suggest that lands in this ilaqa like those in Sardina and Corsica islands should be utilised for growing fruits such as chestnuts for which purpose they are admirably suited since these fruit trees can withstand the onslaughts of rain and hail. Thanks to the climatic suitability, such fruits can be grown here in such abundance as to solve the problems of food of the poor people inhabiting it. These can serve as a substitute for food and help remove the general shortage of food in the country.

It is true that the Forest Department is doing all it can to tackle the problem of erosion in this ilaqa with the help of the most modern scientific devices. But, I regret to point out that it is resulting in unnecessary hardship for the poor people living there. They have been ousted forcibly from their pastures where their cattle

used to graze. They are now in a fix as to where from they should obtain grass for their cattle. My submission is that whatever the Government does for the benefit of the people, it should in no case alienate the sympathies of the people or antagonize them for nothing. Their cooperation and good-will shall prove an asset to the Government in making its schemes a success. Poona is the centre of experts of soil mechanism. We understand that an institute of soil mechanism has now been opened in Amritsar also. These experts should be asked to visit the hilly districts of our State such as Kangra and Hoshiarpur and suggest ways and means of saving the land from such ravages of Nature as the chos. They should tell us how to train these nullahs to become regular channels incapable of changing their courses.

I would be failing in my duty, Sir, if I do not draw the attention of the Government to the hardship being caused to the people as a result of the operation and enforcement of the provisions of the Punjab Utilisation of Waste Lands Act in these hilly districts. The Agricultural Assistants posted in these districts are not performing their duties properly. They do not know their job. They should be instructed to have contact with the M. L. As. of the ilaqa who will give them guidance as to the agricultural problems of the people of these districts and the way of tackling them. They should also be asked to maintain a daily record of their work in a diary. Then, Sir, the difficulties of reclaiming land in this terrain are probably not being realised. Nor is it being realised that the so called waste lands in the hilly tracts in fact serve the purpose of pasture for the cattle of the Zamindars and their importance to them is great in view of the fact that it is not possible to grow regular fodder crops in the hilly land. Moreover Zamindars are being compelled to fell trees and clear the land in a very short time without realising that it is not possible for them to do so so long as the trees are not marked by the Forest Department. The procedure for getting the trees marked is very lengthy and results in wastage of their time. For obtaining the necessary sanction to fell trees, the Zamindars have first to approach the officials of the Revenue Department and then go to Inner Seraj after traversing 20-25 miles in some cases to contact the officers of the Forest Department. All this botheration they have to undergo to get the sanction to fell trees and if trees are not felled in the specified period fines are imposed on them. It is not realised that it is not humanly possible to bring rocky land under cultivation.

[Rai Raghuvir Singh]

in as short a period of time as the land in the plains. I would, therefore, request the Minister incharge that instructions should be issued to the officers concerned for giving more time to the people in hilly areas for this purpose.

Minister for Irrigation : Please go and see the Minister incharge and convince him.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (Punjabi) : Sir, we who have been born in kisan families fully realize the difficulties of our brethren and regard their sorrows and difficulties as our own. Before the elections the hon. Ministers were never weary of proclaiming from the house-tops that they were the humble servants of the people living in rural areas but as soon as they occupied these ministerial gaddis they absolutely forgot their promises. I must submit that the Government should have allocated more funds for Agriculture. I am disappointed to find that this department has been ignored and a larger provision has been made for Police as compared to Agriculture ? The Police officers are terrorising the poor tenants in villages with the result that these people have perforce to leave the profession of agriculture. About 8,000 tenants have already been ejected from their lands. On the one hand we find these poor tenants wallowing in poverty and on the other side Rani of Baroda is spending money lavishly in foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker : Please leave this aside.

Sardar Nidhan Singh : Sir, what I want to drive at is this that the Government has provided an inadequate sum in the Budget for Agriculture. There is great unrest among the tenants and if they publicly express their difficulties the Government resort to firing in order to crush them. It will appear from the Budget that the Government has provided a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for employment of C. I. D. staff to remove the unrest among the peasants. The condition of tenants is going from bad to worse and those people who live in palatial buildings can hardly realise their difficulties. When there was great unrest in France and the people cried for bread, the Queen of France admonished them to eat cakes if bread was not available. She could hardly know how those poor people who could not even get bread to eat could afford to get cakes for themselves. In village Kallowal district Ferozepore, two tenants have been killed and firing was also resorted to in another village to crush the tenants. The Government

should take into consideration at least the fact that it derives 80 per cent of its revenues from the villagers and only 20 percent from the industrialists. In America the case is just the reverse. I would, in these circumstances, earnestly request the Government to remove discontent from the tenants and make their lives peaceful. The Government seems to have divided sympathies. It wants to win the favour of tenants and also of the landlords. I would say that it is following the policy of setting a thief to catch a thief.

Shri Daulat Ram Sharma (Hamirpur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I would like to say something on the demand that is at present under discussion but before I do so I would just make a passing remark that it has become almost a habit with the Opposition to criticise the Government not because of its faults of omission and commission but because of their natural instinct of offering opposition to the Government. They are acting like the boy who not knowing how to solve the question wanted to impress his examiner with his knowledge of Mathematic and said "Let me first solve the binomial theorem."

My hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand in the course of his speech remarked that there is no tenancy problem here nor are there any disputes between the tenants and the landlords. Then further he said that the Government should introduce agrarian reforms soon so that the strained relations between landlords and tenants may be harmonised. The contradictory statements that he made show that the tenants problem is very acute in this State. It is heartening to find that the hon. Minister for Development has told the House that the Government would bring forward a legislative measure by which the problem of tenants would be finally solved. This would give a stimulus to the tenants to work hard for producing more food. Then, Sir, I would submit that the progress and prosperity of Punjab depend upon the development of agriculture in the State. After the partition, we have witnessed that the Punjab which used to be the granary of India was faced with acute food shortage. We had to import food from foreign countries. Now I must congratulate the peasantry and the Government that they have tried their best to increase food production with the result that our State has become surplus in food. As it would appear from the Budget our Government has provided Rs. 58 lakhs for agriculture. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs is meant for manure and fertilizers and the rest I think will be spent on the salaries of the officers of the

[Shri Daulat Ram Sharma]

department. We also find that a sum of Rs. 23 lakhs has been provided for the demonstration and experiments. I have never seen any such demonstration in Hamirpur Tehsil of district Kangra. I have heard for the first time that even films have been prepared for disseminating knowledge about new developments in agriculture. These films should be displayed in villages and backward areas in order to give the illiterate peasants education and knowledge of the latest agricultural practices and improvements.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (Punjabi): Sir, I would like to say something on the demand for Agriculture which is at present under discussion. Our State mainly depends upon agriculture and unless steps are taken by the Government to improve agriculture our Punjab will remain under-fed and under-nourished. The Government should allocate more funds for Agriculture next year because it is not possible to make any substantial improvement in agriculture within the frame-work of the present Budget. This amount will mainly be spent on the salaries of the officers and for making propaganda in the villages. As a matter of fact, we cannot increase the productivity of the soil without adequate supply of water. So the primary need of the peasants is that they should be given irrigational facilities for the development of agriculture.

Minister for Irrigation: We have already spent crores of rupees on irrigation schemes.

Sardar Darshan Singh: There is need for the supply of improved seeds which should be made available to the zamindars at cheaper rates. Moreover, we cannot hope to make agricultural development in the State unless 44 lakh acres of land which are lying waste are brought under the plough and the ejection of tenants is stopped. The Government should also allot land to the Harijans and other backward classes. Unless the allotment of land is made to the satisfaction of all, there cannot be any appreciable progress in agriculture in our State. There are no shamilat lands in the villages and the zamindars are experiencing great difficulty for keeping their manure. They are also greatly dissatisfied with the working of the Department of Consolidation of Holdings. Under these circumstances, I am driven to the conclusion that the speeches that were made during the pre-election days

[promising amelioration of the lot of zamindars were only an election propaganda and had no other significance.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (Punjabi): Sir, I have risen to give my whole-hearted support to the demand for Agriculture. Though some hon. Members might not be satisfied with the amount of funds allotted for this Department yet I feel that since a Minister like Sardar Partap Singh Kairon is incharge of this Department, it will certainly progress. The Agriculture Department has direct connection with the rural people who constitute 80% of the population of this State and who depend directly or indirectly upon Agriculture. It is the rural population which had to encounter innumerable difficulties after the partition. The greatest difficulty that the rural population had to face and is still facing is the paucity of land. Whereas East Punjab got 46% of total population of the Punjab, the land that came to its share was not more than 38%. We got not only less area of land but everything connected with agriculture such as irrigation facilities, agricultural college, experimental farms seeding centre etc. were left in West Punjab and we were deprived of their benefit. I think it will not be wrong to say that the Agriculture Department in the East Punjab had to begin from scratch. Since then it has been trying to overcome all these difficulties one by one.

Now I refer to some of the difficulties with which agriculture in our State is faced. First is the shortage of canal water for irrigation. Second is the inferior quality of land and the third is the menace of wild animals and other pests which damage the crops. Fourthly, the agricultural holdings in our State are either too big or too small. We shall have to change the structure of agricultural holdings with a view to increasing the food production in our State. My suggestion is that big holdings should be entirely abolished and so should the small holdings. The holdings should be economic units and farming should be on a co-operative or collective basis. I do not agree with those hon. Members who are opposed to the mechanisation of agriculture. Already the agriculture industry is very backward in this country and I think there is no other solution of our food problem than that of introduction of mechanised farming on a co-operative or collective basis. At the same time I would urge the necessity of improving the relations between landlords

[Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon]
and tenants and settling them in an amicable manner. In his Address delivered to the Legislature in the beginning of the last Session, the Governor had referred to the decision of his Government to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation. I support the suggestion of my hon. Friend who has suggested the setting up of an Agricultural Finance Corporation. Another suggestion that I have to make is that the work of supervision of the Community Projects should not be entrusted to those officers who have no experience and background of rural life. In the end, I would suggest that as the Veterinary Department is closely connected with the Agriculture Department, the pay of the Veterinary Assistants should be raised. At present their pay is not more than that of a junior clerk.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (Punjabi): Sir, there cannot be two opinions about the importance of the Agriculture Department in the life of the people. But I regret to say that it has not been given the attention that it deserves. The 'Grow More Food Campaign, has not been carried on in a satisfactory manner. It has not led to any good results in spite of such huge expenditure on it. The tractors given on loan for this purpose have not been properly utilised. For instance in a village named Ladowal in Tehsil Ludhiana, the tractors have been lying idle. Money has been unnecessarily wasted on the purchase of jeeps in connection with this campaign. Provision of jeeps has served no useful purpose.

Sir, I beg to submit that thousands of acres of land are lying fallow by the side of the rivers in District Jullundur. I, therefore, request the Government to take steps to bring this land under cultivation. We shall be able to increase the production of food grains if the Government is able to get it cultivated.

Then, Sir, I request the hon. Ministers to concentrate their attention on the removal of difficulties of the cultivators. They are not even able to get steel for their ploughs. There is no doubt that they can get a new plough, but it is difficult for them to get steel even for replacing some broken parts of it. For that purpose they have to come to the towns.

Further, I want to refer to certain things regarding the consolidation of holdings which has been started in village Nurmahal in Tehsil Phillaur. The method of working of the Patwaris who have

been deputed to carry out this consolidation work is wrong. It has been seen that if previously one had to travel a distance of one mile for going from one village to the others, now he will have to travel four or five miles. Further, Sir, this work is being done by the Patwaris, who are addicted to corrupt practices. It has been found that no action is taken by the Revenue Department when a complaint against a Patwari is made. He is not even transferred from the place from where a complaint is received against him. I request the hon. Minister for Revenue to place the services of these Patwaris under the direct control of settlement officers (consolidation) who may check their working and honesty.

Further, I want to request the Government to issue instructions to the consolidation officers to reserve some land in every village for a school and a playground. It should also arrange to supply electricity and water to every village where the consolidation has been completed. It should supply these amenities of life in Tehsil Phillaur as soon as the consolidation work is completed there. In that Tehsil, the holdings are not larger than ten acres each. The people of that Tehsil will be able to instal tube-wells on their lands and increase production as soon as electricity is supplied to them. I, therefore, request the Government to arrange to supply electricity to these areas as early as possible.

Sardar Karnail Singh Sidhu (Dabwali) (Punjabi): Sir, I beg to submit that our State lives on Agriculture. Many hon. friends have already made suggestions for the development of Agriculture in the State, which if put into practice, will prove very useful. I shall also place one or two things before the House.

I request the Government to pay a greater attention to the development of Agriculture because on this depends the prosperity of our country. For giving agricultural education, there is only one Agriculture College in our State. This is insufficient. Proper development in agriculture can be brought about only if we educate the masses in the latest methods of agriculture. Therefore, I request the Government to take steps to open classes for agricultural education in every school in the State.

Then, Sir, I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to the low scales of pay of the Agricultural Assistants i.e. 100-10-200. How can we expect them to work well when they are not

[Sardar Karnail Singh Sidhu]

properly paid ? The Government should bring their grades of pay to the same level as that of the lecturers in the Education Department. The scale of pay of a lecturer in the non-gazetted cadre is 150-10-300, of a class II Lecturer of the gazetted cadre, 250-15-450 and of a class I lecturer 325 to 650. Then the scale of pay of a lecturer in Medical College starts from Rs. 250/- and ends at Rs. 550/-. In addition to it he gets a special pay of Rs. 150/- p. m. These grades are very attractive and create an incentive in the minds of the people working in that Department. Sir, we cannot hope to get a better quality of work from the staff working in the Department of agriculture, unless the Government brings their pay at par with that of the staff employed in other similar Departments.

I, therefore, request the Government to pay a greater attention to Agriculture, since 80 per cent population of our State depends upon Agriculture.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) : Sir, many hon. Members have spoken as to how agriculture should be improved. As I am also interested in this subject, I want to deal with some important problems concerning agriculture in today's debate. Before dilating on the complicated problem of agriculture, I want to say a few words with regard to the agrarian problem. As I have to quote certain references from the American and British books, I would like to indulge in the foreign language today.

It is most unfortunate that agrarian problem has not been tackled on a scientific basis and on constructive lines. It has been tackled in a half-hearted manner, partially on western methods and partially on eastern methods. Sir, I would like that we should not subscribe to the western methods inadvertently and blindly. At the same time I do not want that we should follow the old orthodox rut of the eastern ideology. So I would like that we should first of all see the economic side as well as the social side of the problem. If we handle this problem in a haphazard manner, as we have been and are doing now, it would create chaos and confusion in the country. People in the rural areas are not educated and as such they can be easily perturbed by the introduction of any new ideology. The method of fixing a ceiling in the matter of holding is neither scientific nor economic. For instance, let us take a piece

of land of say 30 or 40 or even 50 acres as ceiling. It would not prove economic; because after one or two generations, this land would be divided into fragmental pieces and small holdings, which would not be economic. So, I believe, that we should not adopt this policy of fixing a ceiling. It is most unscientific and uneconomic. I am in favour of nationalisation of land and other industries. (*Cheers*). But we should follow a clear cut policy. We should not adopt hasty methods. I would suggest to my colleagues that we should wait and see that the State is fully matured for complete nationalisation before it is half-heartedly handled at this stage and becomes a source of chaos and confusion in the country.

The people in the rural areas who are neither fully matured nor educated can be easily exploited at any time by any agency. I do not want to name any particular agency in this country or from outside. So, Sir, I would respectfully submit that the agrarian problem should be tackled in a very carefully planned and cautious manner.

Mr. Speaker : I will request the hon. Member to be brief in his speech as the time is very limited. I can allow him five minutes more at the most.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : Very well, Sir. I would leave this problem here without quoting any references from some books, which I had a mind to quote, as my subject is very lengthy and the time allowed by the hon. Speaker is very short.

Now I would like to deal briefly with the agriculture side. Agriculture really is the only industry of the Punjabis. To handle it properly, we must pay due attention to two most essential things, i. e. development of cottage industries in the villages and the imparting of agricultural education to the villagers.

It is undoubtedly true that the State Education Department has given special care to the agricultural education in rural areas, but I believe there is still much more scope for its development in rural areas. In particular, I would suggest that the State Education Department should make early arrangements to impart high education of a scientific nature in the rural areas. The people in villages should at least know how to combat the day to day agricultural diseases. For instance, they must know how to destroy swarms of locusts which destroy standing crops. The State-owned laboratories

[Professor Mota Singh]

which are carrying on research work should take effective steps to make available periodically in understandable language the results of their research to the peasants so that they could also benefit by adopting modern and advanced methods.

With regard to cottage industries, I suggest that the State Government should take immediate steps to establish some centres where villagers should be taught the method of manufacturing by-products such as oil from oilseeds and of cotton ginning as it was done in the old days. At present, the villagers have to go to towns to purchase implements at a heavy cost. I would put forward a suggestion for the consideration of the authorities concerned. Some centres for manufacturing implements be established on a cooperative basis in the villages and these should make available to the tillers the implements on a no-profit no loss basis.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri Ram Parkash (Molana) (Hindi): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to express my views. Sir, three things viz., water, air and food are God's free gifts to mankind. Nobody in this world should be deprived of any of these things, but it is a pity that the big landlords of our country have adopted a very unbecoming attitude towards the tenants.

Mr. Speaker, I very well realise the extent of sympathies which our Minister for Development has got for the tenants but I fail to understand why atrocities are still being perpetrated on them. The ordinance recently promulgated by the Governor aimed at the betterment of the tenants, but it has not done any substantial good to them. This ordinance governed the case of there tenants who had been ejected during the period 1st May, to 15th June, 1950. I had an opportunity to see the Reveune officer, Ambala, and to discuss the pros and cons of the situation. I told him that legally the ordinance might be in order, but so far as its obtaining the desired results was concerned, it was of no use at all. If an ejected tenant applies for restoration of his tenancy it would take more than a month for the case to be finally decided because the landlord has to be summoned and examined in the court. If the landlord does not attend the court in obedience to the summons about a month, the result is that the tenant cannot cultivate his land. Sir, I am aware of many cases

where ejectments have been made even after the 15th June, 1952. Let me quote the names of the villages where such ejectments have been made :—

1.	Bambol	Tehsil Jagadhri
2.	Jhoonpuri	„ —do—
3.	Mankhari ki Taprian	„ —do—
4.	Gadauli	„ —do—
5.	Tazakpuri Ki Taprian	„ —do—

I know that the Minister for Development is aware of these things as a representation has already been made to the Government against the attitude of the landlords. May I know what action, if any, has been taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the tenants and to restore their lands? Sir, a great deal of red-tapism prevails in the administration. When a petition is submitted to a Revenue Officer, he sends it to the Tehsildar. Tehsildar, on his part, forwards the same to the Kanungo. Even the Kanungo does not care to investigate himself into the matter and he passes on the application to the Patwari concerned. What does the Patwari do? He throws it into the waste-paper basket. This is the treatment which is being meted out to the poor tenants whose voice is simply a cry in the wilderness.

Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that no action whatsoever is being taken by the officers to redress the grievances of the tenants with the result that their condition is fast deteriorating. Forcible ejectments are taking place and I urge the Government to take a serious notice of such incidents and to post police in such areas so as to save the tenants from being harassed by the landlords.

Then, Sir, the allotments of Shamilat lands has been made in the villages but it is a matter of deep regret that these have been given only to big land-owners. The tillers as well as the Harijans have been completely ignored even in this respect. This is a very appalling state of affairs and I request

[Shri Ram Parkash]

the Government to afford full protection to these people. They should be given their share in the allotment of shamilats also.

Sir, a few days ago the potters, "Kumhar Bradri" of the State made a representation to the Government that with a view to rehabilitating them, suitable lands should be allotted to them but nothing seems to have been done in this matter. I, therefore, take this opportunity to request the Government to take immediate action and provide them lands so that they may be able to start cottage industry in our villages.

Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail (Palampur) (*Hinli*): Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Minister for Development and the officers of the Agriculture Department for the strenuous efforts which they have made to convert this State which was deficit in food only a few years back into a surplus one. Their spirit of selflessness has received wide appreciation from the masses. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, our Prime Minister, has also strongly commended the work done by Punjab in this direction. I would, therefore, be guilty of ingratitude if I do not offer my thanks and congratulations to the Department of Agriculture for the work done by it for increasing the production of food in the State. While I recommend to the House to give its support to the Demand under discussion I wish to know from the Government the number of tube wells which have been sunk and the other steps taken by it to provide irrigational facilities to the people of Kangra district. Has the Government advanced loans to the peasants for enabling them to purchase tractors and other agricultural implements?

Such a step would have helped them considerably. I would like to emphasize the necessity of taking immediate steps for encouraging the production of foodgrains in hilly tracts also.

Mr. Speaker: I would request the hon. Member to resume his seat now.

Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail : Kindly allow me one minute, more.

The Government should also make arrangements for the supply of manure to the peasants of this district, as it is not available there in sufficient quantity. It is equally essential that agricultural implements; tractors etc, which can prove helpful for

purposes of cultivation in the hilly area should be made available to the peasants of the *ilaga*.

Shri Mehar Singh (Hamirpur) (*Hindi*):—Sir, many of my friends here have criticised the demand for Agriculture but I am of the opinion that the amount asked for it is too small because in a country where the people depend mainly on agriculture such a small grant is not at all in keeping with the magnitude of the task which this Department has to perform. Unless the grant for this department is increased, it will not be possible for us to ask it to provide larger field staff for giving guidance and advice to the farmers. At present, eighty per cent of the farmers are ignorant of the latest scientific methods introduced for the yield of better crops. They are also unaware of the fact that the land owned by them is yielding poor crops on account of deficiency of a particular mineral. As is done in other countries, our Government should also supply such information to the zamindars. This can be done if they are taught the latest methods of cultivation. This task requires the recruitment of additional staff and consequently more expenditure. This staff will go from village to village and tell the zamindars whether it is iron or sulphur or anything else which their lands lack. They will also guide them as to what kind of crops should be sown in an arid land and what should be sown in damp soil.

Coming to the item of expenditure connected with the scheme of Grow More Food, I do not hesitate in saying that the implementation of this scheme has been wrongly entrusted to the "babus". As a matter of fact they care more about the crease of their pants than for the work entrusted to them. It was owing to this fundamental mistake that the posters costing thousands of rupees were pasted on the walls of the schools and hospitals where they could serve no useful purpose. This amount would have been better utilized if publicity had been done on the fields. Is it not painful to learn that a huge sum of twenty-seven lakhs of rupees provided for "Grow-More-Food Campaign" was actually utilized for purchasing jeep-cars for the officers? I beg to submit that the amount should have been expended solely for the purpose for which it was really meant.

Another important suggestion that I would like to offer for consideration is that the Department of Education should be asked to earmark certain funds for giving publicity through the educational

[Shri Mehar Singh]

adult centres, to the scientific developments in agriculture. This method is sure to yield better results as the peasants shall be able to understand things like the preparation of compost manure and will learn other scientific improvements which can prove of immense help in their everyday life.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (Punjabi) :

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you for your having given me an opportunity to reply to the points raised by the hon. Member during the course of debate on the demand for Agriculture.

The Punjabi lives mainly on agriculture and the Punjabis are famous throughout the country for their capacity to do hard work. They earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow. They have undoubtedly won a name for toiling ceaselessly in the fields and the credit for it to a large extent, goes to the Department of Agriculture in the Punjab which has definitely done a great deal to train the farmers in the scientific methods of cultivation.

It has been stated on the floor of the House that the expenditure on services engaged in this Department is out of all proportions to the demand under discussion. But the critics seem to have completely forgotten that this Department is not meant for arresting thieves or for detecting black-marketers. It aims at ameliorating the condition of the farmers and tillers. The ultimate object of this Department is to educate the people in scientific method of cultivation and to introduce the most useful implements for that work. This objective can be achieved only if there is sufficient staff for the purpose. Viewed from this angle the staff already engaged cannot be regarded as excessive, but still I shall examine their existing strength and ascertain if the 27 % expenditure incurred on them at present is larger than that which used to be incurred in the undivided Punjab. Some of my friends went to the extent of saying that the staff recruited by the Department was doing no useful work and that the Department should be abolished. These friends will please note that the main function of the staff of this Department is to act as advisers to the cultivators and as such their services are greatly needed in the interest of the country. The question of abolition of this Department does not, therefore, arise. In fact it is a conservative but progressive Department. Like a peasant, it takes time to devise

plans and schemes but once it has framed them, it never leaves the work unaccomplished.

Since long we have been making strenuous efforts to root out weeds from our fields but these are still there. No such thing can be seen in countries like America, France, Japan which I had the opportunity of visiting. What is the cause of all our labour in this direction having gone waste? It is due to the fact that there has been no improvement in our system of cultivation.

The growers are conservative and it has taken 25 years temperamentally to convince them of the utility of land consolidation. It was not long ago that many of them did not want to grow 312 and other types of sugar-cane.

Some hon. Members have criticised the strength of the staff engaged in the Agriculture Department. But my satisfaction is that while some Members have asked for a reduction in the staff there are others who have asked for its increase. At present we have one Sub. Inspector for 150 villages and it can be well imagined how audacious his task is. Some hon. Members concocted stories that the Director could not distinguish gowara from cotton. These were all imaginary stories and had nothing to do with facts. I would request my friends opposite not to make such irresponsible remarks.

An hon. Member: They are in the habit of doing so.

Minister for Development: Then, Sir, my attention was drawn to the amount of agricultural yield in the State. Some friends remarked that no appreciable progress had been made in this connection. My contention is that there is a vast difference between the amount of food and other commodities produced in our State now and that produced a few years back. Agriculture is making a considerable headway in our State. I can safely say that we have brought more land under cultivation as compared to America. The only difficulty which we have to face is with regard to suitable manure and seeds. Our wheat of 591 and 518 types can favourably compare with the wheat produced in other countries. The Punjab is leading all the States in the production of foodgrains. The whole credit for it goes to our Research Deptt. They have been toiling very hard to bring about an increase in production. They really deserve all commendation for

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the useful work which they are doing for the nation as a whole. The Department of Agriculture has rendered great help by making it possible for us to grow the best quality of American cotton in the State. It compares favourably with the cotton grown in Egypt. This is all due to the research work done by this Department. The length of the fibres of Egyptian and American cotton are 1-25" and 1-2" respectively and that of Abohar cotton is 1-07". This is remarkable progress. So I would request my hon. Friends not to indulge in unhealthy and destructive criticism without knowing the real fact. My friends who have not visited the Abohar Laboratory should try to find time to go there and see how work is being done there. They will really be pleased to visit it. I have seen the Cotton farm at Jullundur and also the Abohar Demonstration Laboratory. These are doing wonderful work. As a matter of fact we feel greater pleasure in seeing the green fields yielding bumper crops than by visiting Kashmir, Dalhousie or Simla. These farms are growing superfine quality of wheat, gram and bajra. Similarly they are growing very good quality of fodder. The whole credit of this work goes to the Research Department. My friend from Gurgaon observed that we had not brought about any appreciable increase in our production. I want to tell him that merely criticising the work without seeing things in their proper perspective leads us nowhere.

Sir, I had great regard for late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram. May his spirit rest in peace and his soul dwell in heaven. He realized the difficulties of the villagers and worked for their betterment. It does not become such a great man's nephew—Shri Sri Chand—to criticize these demonstration farms which have been set up for the good of the agriculturists and farmers. As a matter of fact he ought to know the utility of such farms where research work is carried on and experiments are made for improving the yield and fibre of cotton by cross-fertilizing various kinds of cotton. The main difficulty so far as experiments on cotton are concerned is that when the yield increases the fibres become short and the mill-owners do not like such cotton. We are trying to improve both the yield and the fibre, so that cotton mills may not have to depend on American or Egyptian cotton. But these experiments will take time and we should not lose patience.

Now take the case of gram. There are so many articles of food in the preparation of which gram is an essential ingredient. Nearly all the sweets, for instance 'laddoos' which are liked by the farmers are prepared from 'besan' i. e. gram atta. We are carrying on experiments on gram in order to find out a quality of gram on which lightning, frost hailstorm and rain may have no adverse effects. We are sure that in due course of time we will succeed in such efforts.

Another thing on which experiments are being carried on in our research laboratories is 'Barsem'. When I was a small boy we used to sow *senji* in our fields. It was a hard time to irrigate these. Now instead in a small area we sow *Barsem*. It is so beautiful to look at. It has a high nutritive value also. If more labour is put in, it yields rich crops. Moreover the farmers have an additional advantage. They get fresh and green fodder throughout the year. I like it and commend it to the farmer. The department has been asked to find out other kinds of fodder as a substitute for '*Chari*' so that the people may cultivate the habit of rearing healthy and good cattle. At present what we find is that most of the people in our country keep cows and buffaloes which yield very small quantities of milk. They appear to have neither the desire nor the capacity of rearing cows and buffaloes which yield one maund of milk as is the case in America, Australia, New Zealand and England. We have, in fact, conservative habits. As one of my hon. Friends has remarked our hens stop laying eggs after only eight eggs have been laid. We should teach our people to keep good and healthy cattle. The Department of Agriculture is doing its best in this direction. There is a disease among cockrels and hens for which the Department has discovered a medicine. Its injections are very cheap and efficacious. Every person can afford to have his hens injected. Our intention is to encourage poultry, piggery, dairy and other subsidiary industries so that we may be able to provide sufficient nutritive food for people. The practice of colouring water with 'haldi' and putting some pulse in it and then gulping the morsels of chapatis with that salted water should be discarded as early as possible because it leads to deterioration in our national health. The Punjab will not progress if this state of affairs continues. We must change our national habits in diet and in so many other things if we have a desire to lift our country to the level of other advanced countries of the world. I hope you will excuse me if I suggest that meat and eggs should form a part of our diet as they have a great nutritive.

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value. In Kangra, even the cattle are not healthy because of the inferior quality of grass that grows in the mountains.

Sardar Harbhajan Singh has drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that most of the employees of this Department are temporary. He has asked for their confirmation. But how can this be done? We are getting grants from the Central Government for research work. If they stop these grants a number of employees might have no work to do. So it is not possible at this stage to confirm all of them.

There is another thing to which I would like to make a brief reference. We have a seed-farm for potatoes at Dhugri where experiments are performed to improve the quality of potatoes. The potatoes produced there are distributed among the farmers as seed. Previously, we had to bring potatoes from U. P. and Bihar and it cost us much. Now we have a sufficient quantity of these in our own State. We do research in wheat also in order to find out a better quality which may be supplied as seed to the peasant. But the hon. Members should realise that research work takes time. It is after many years of research that some improvement can be made. When such an improvement takes place, we recommend to the farmers the use of such an improved variety. The hon. Members can also help us in doing propaganda for the use of improved varieties of seed. Whatever the party affiliations of the members may be this work should be done in the interest of the country as a whole.

Some of my friends know better about the seeds than I do. If they do not have full knowledge about this subject, they should try to acquire it.

Agricultural production cannot be increased overnight. The people also, who work on land and earn their living by cultivation, know that the process of producing food is pretty long. Wheat crops cannot be ready in one month nor can any other food be grown in less than a certain period of time. It was said that there were many defects and short-comings in the Agriculture Department. I know that the officers of this Department are not destroying Pohli and other weeds. They simply threaten people with action under the provisions of certain Acts. Unless the people

help themselves, there can be no appreciable improvement in agriculture. I am aware that false reports are submitted by the workers of this Department regarding the quantity of Pohli destroyed by them. In spite of all these weaknesses in the Agriculture Department of which I am not ignorant, I shall request the hon. Members to give full co-operation to it. This Department can only encourage and initiate people into doing good things. They cannot do the whole work themselves. Nobody will have any hesitation in appreciating the work done by this Department in one respect at least. The compost manure which it has taught the villagers to prepare is of immense value to the agriculturists. The cattle dung which was considered quite useless is now converted into very valuable manure by being kept in two and a half feet deep pits for a few months. A farmer loves the manure formed in such pits more than many other things.

I do not deny that the officials of this department sometimes submit false reports about the number of manure pits dug in villages. Is it not our duty to tell the people about the utility of these pits and to help them in digging these? How can I have good opinion about a cultivator who does not preserve manure in pits and does not remove Pohli from his fields? It is in our own interest to help in destroying Pohli. Whether it is the Congress party or some other party which holds the reins of office, our existence depends upon agriculture.

My hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand said that out of the total population of 136 lakhs, 48 lakhs cultivated land with their own hands. There are 102 lakh agriculturists in the State. Out of these women alone number 48 lakhs or more. Moreover, those who cultivate land must be over eighteen years of age. I beg to submit that it is no use misleading people by quoting wrong figures. I hope that there are at least some parties in the Opposition who have a constructive programme. Figures can be made to serve any purpose. The person quoting them can depict a bright or dark picture just as it suits him. Had the Unionist party got some constructive programme, they would have met a better fate during the last elections. I am, however, convinced that the people have become very knowledgeable and they know as to who are indulging

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in mere propaganda and who are engaged in real constructive work. If that were not so, how could this Government remain in office?

No newspaper is supporting the Punjab Government. In spite of so much opposition from them we still survive and are functioning actively. Instead of giving constructive suggestions, some of the newspapers give out that there are differences between the hon. Chief Minister and myself or between the Chief Minister and Shri Jagat Narain. I wish to make it clear that all these news are false and malicious. There are absolutely no differences among us and all our decisions are taken unanimously. How can we afford to quarrel among ourselves if we want to maintain the prestige of the Congress? The newspapers which publish such stories are not serving the people or the country. Their only interest is to increase their circulation by a few copies. I am, however, happy that the public is intelligent enough to sift the truth. I was submitting, Sir, that we have to do much more than we are doing now but to achieve results we need the co-operation of the public.

Then, Sir, severe criticism was levelled against the Tractor Cultivation Scheme. It was said that it had been run in a very inefficient manner and had resulted in a loss of lakhs of rupees. The report of the Committee appointed to enquire into this matter is expected to be reviewed by the 15th of this month and I assure the House that the officers responsible for this loss will be severely dealt with. It is our duty to see that every penny of the public money is properly spent. One bad act on the part of a Government officer is enough to bring the whole Government into disrepute. The Government officers owe a duty to the general public to be very careful in the discharge of their duties. It might be true that one officer in the Agriculture Department was trying to harm another but it is our duty to put an end to such things. All the same there are a large number of persons on the staff of the Agriculture Department, who have great sympathy with the general public.

One of the hon. Members said that some of the officers engaged on the work of consolidation of holdings know nothing about land. In this connection I want to point out that I have employed the best

persons as Settlement Officers. I shall not be exaggerating if I say that better persons could not be found for this work. One or two Magistrates know this work very well and I shall borrow their services. There is scope of dishonesty in the work of consolidation because the future of cultivators depends on it, but I have appointed the best possible men as Settlement Officers and it will not be possible for anybody to commit malpractices. Under the Settlement Officer there are Consolidation Officers, Assistant Consolidation Officers and Girdawars. In my opinion, the appointment of an honest officer at the top always has a good effect on the subordinates. Is there any such Settlement Officer who has not got a good reputation? Moreover, the Revenue Department is also under my charge and if I find that any officer in that department can be more usefully employed for consolidation work, I shall not hesitate to transfer him to that department. I do not want a Consolidation Officer to be influenced by party or other considerations in doing his work. I do not want that any officer should be able to make money in collaboration with Patwaris. I am determined to see that the whole work is done in the most honest manner.

To deal effectively with the corrupt officers, our Chief Minister has hit upon a novel idea. I think the hon. Members will be pleased to know that a circular letter has been issued to all the officers to the effect that if any official working under them is found guilty of corruption they will be called to account for it. So, now the officers would have to keep a watch on their subordinates in their own interests and report to the Government at once if the integrity of anyone of them is in doubt. They shall neglect it at their own cost. This shows, Sir, the zeal with which the Government is striving to eradicate corruption.

To my friends who have criticised the manner in which the consolidation work is being carried on, my submission is that when they go back to their constituencies they should note down the defects and complaints against the staff and bring them to my notice and then blame me if suitable action is not taken to remove them. I want to assure them here and now that if the Government gets satisfactory evidence of the consolidation work having been done in a tainted manner, it will definitely undo it and have it done afresh. (*Loud Cheers*)

[Minister for Development]

Let no body think that we are going to tolerate any irregularities or corrupt practices in this work of consolidation of holdings. What we need most is the co-operation of the hon. Members of the Legislature and the people in general. In order to root out this evil of corruption what is needed most is a change in the social and moral outlook of the people. Today the position is this that if a Kanungo is corrupt the people who are sick of him shall not utter a word against him so long as any of the Patwaris working under him spresent. Such instances can easily be multiplied. The trouble is that the general atmosphere is not conducive to the eradication of corruption. For one reason or another evidence against corrupt officers is generally not forthcoming.

It is a matter for regret, Sir, that the mango crop was damaged by *tela* this year. If timely information of this menace had been given to the Government it would certainly have arranged for the spraying of mango trees as it had done last year. Instructions have now been given to the people who own mango gardens to purchase spraying machines and we shall always be glad to supply them the necessary medicines.

An hon. Friend has objected to the provision of Rs. 31, 000/- for publicity work in connection with agricultural improvement and the provision of Rs. 2, 000/- for crops competition. Sir, I would not hesitate to say that anybody who criticises such beneficial schemes and plans for improvement of agriculture is a saboteur. He should realise that while in a democratic system of Government it is not possible to get things done by force, there is no harm in providing healthy incentives for doing better work or for the promotion of the interests of the State. Nor is there any harm in getting the work done by persuasion. While we have not the least intention of employing coercion, violence or force, we want it to be realised that no Government or administration can function properly unless it tempers leniency and mildness with a certain amount of strictness. If a Government becomes all honey, it will meet the fate of the serpent in the fable whom every little boy could thrash with impunity ever since he had given up biting under an oath. We do not want to be treated like that serpent. If the landlords behave, well and good; if not, they will have to be dealt

with an iron hand. My friends have complained bitterly of the atrocities perpetrated on the tenants. What else could they expect from these centuries old, firmly-entrenched vested interests? I may however, assure the House that the Government is firmly determined to protect the tenant. (*Cheers*). The rod of law will certainly fall on those who have been responsible for terrorising the tenants with the help of hired *goondas*.. It is absolutely wrong to suggest that we are in any way favouring the landlords, but I must say that we are striving and shall continue to strive to settle in a smooth manner, once for all, this tenants-landlords problem. In this connection, the Government will not hesitate to fix a ceiling over and above which the land will be taken away from every zamindar and vested collectively in the village community consisting of all the residents of the village including the landless Harijans. (*Cheers*)

Sir, my heart overflows with pity at the miserable plight of the landless people living in the rural areas of the Haryana Prant where there is more of Jatism than anywhere else. I do not say such people in other parts of the State are quite comfortable. What I mean to say is that thanks to considerable consciousness among the ruralites in Jullundur division, such atrocities as are committed on the landless people in Haryana Prant are not known in this part of the State. In Haryana Prant, they are not even allowed to answer the call of nature in the open. For how long can this sorry state of affairs be tolerated? This has to be put an end to.

Shri Wadhawa Ram: How long shall it take?

Minister for Development: We hope to find a satisfactory and permanent solution of the land problem in this State within a year.

Shri Chand Ram: What is the remedy?

Minister for Development: Sir, why should my hon. Friend be not eager to know it, being a representative of those down-trodden classes who for centuries have been looking forward to the day when they would be able to own land? When it pains me so much, how can he help being anxious over the pitiable plight of his brethren? Let him listen to me. We shall find a solution of their ills by vesting the ownership of shamilat in the whole village community including the Harijans. (*Cheers*) Then there is the question of making the

[Minister for Development]

holdings economic. If we divide the whole of our cultivable land into economic holdings of $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres each, we shall not be able to provide even for 11 lakh families. It is our great desire to introduce cooperative and collective farming in this State as early as possible and we are striving for the progressive realisation of this goal. (*Cheers*). We shall for the present include the land of zamindars owning less than 5 acres of land and the lands above a certain ceiling of big landlords in the scheme of cooperative farming.

I want to assure my hon. Friend Shri Ram Parkash that I do not deny the truth of his allegation that the Government officers are biased in favour of the zamindars and the tenants were forcibly ejected from the land not included in the permissible limit, regardless of the provisions of the law or by sidetracking them, and the tenants have not been able to get justice. It is true that some officers are still of the same mentality as the landlords and cannot shake off their reactionaryism and always ally themselves with the vested interests. Let my friends have a little patience. We are gradually trying to reform the old machinery of administration and it will not be long before it is completely overhauled. We propose to constitute Conciliation Boards consisting of officials and non-officials to decide cases of undue ejectment of tenants. I can assure my hon. Friends that after a few months there will be no complaint against the functioning of the Revenue Courts. Let them have enough faith in this Ministry and let them extend their unstinted cooperation to it and by God's grace we shall be able to put an end to the tyranny of the landlords for ever in the next six months by taking over all their lands in excess of the permissible limit, though in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution we shall be obliged to pay compensation to them.

Sir, I am glad that my hon. Friends sitting on the Opposition Benches also feel that our progress and prosperity are intimately linked up with the development of agriculture in the State. I am also cognizant of the fact that for the development of agriculture it is necessary that we should make arrangements for the adequate supply of water to the peasants whether it be through canals or by tube-wells or in any other way. My hon. Friends in the Opposition have remarked that there has been considerable financial outlay by the Government on the Grow-More-Food Campaign. While making

assessment of the results of the Grow-More-Food Campaign my hon. Friends have not perhaps appreciated the permanent schemes of irrigation such as the sinking of wells and tubewells. Then, Sir, objection was raised to the irresponsible way in which the ziladars distributed water through shoots and it has been alleged that they were giving preference to those who greased their palms. It has also been said that these officers arrogated to themselves the power of refusing the benefit of these shoots to the Zamindars if one of them dared report against them. I am very glad that such grievances of the peasants have been brought to my notice as I want to make a close scrutiny of administration and to plug loopholes wherever they exist. We are anxious to clean the administration and wish to make it known to all and sundry that the present Government will not refuse to hear the poor man's voice and its doors will not be closed to anybody. We have every sympathy with such persons who take an initiative in making genuine complaints against any officer and I assure the House that those who are found to have a bad reputation shall be awarded exemplary punishment.

I will, however, request the Members of the House whether they belong to the Government party or the Opposition party, to raise the standard of debate in this House. I have noticed that some of my hon. Friends have not advanced useful suggestions regarding the tenants' problem. Then, Sir, objection was raised that money belonging to the Cooperative Bank, Hoshiarpur, which is still lying with the Pakistan Government has not been paid to the Bank. In this connection I may state that as the payment is to be made by the Pakistan Government we have to follow the legal procedure. Talks are going on with that Government on secretariat level and I assure the House that the amount will be recovered and paid to the Bank in due course of time. I am also aware of the difficulties experienced by the people of Bhiwani and Hissar to which *ilaga* my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sahib Ram belongs. The people there have to fetch drinking water from a distance of eight miles. I am also aware of the difficulties of the peasants in the areas where there are no canals. Their crops suffer from non-availability of water.

The Government will require two crores of rupees for making available additional quantity of water. For this purpose I would appeal to the people of the State, particularly those who have money,

[Minister for Development]

to spare that. Instead of hoarding that money they should give it as loan to the Government which would return that money in five to ten years. The Government would be prepared to pay a nominal interest on this money. I would also appeal to the Bank to advance money to the Government for public use. This money will be utilised for setting up tube-wells and pumping sets at different places for irrigating about 250 acres of land. In the end, Sir, I would thank the hon. Members who have offered useful suggestions to the Government and I assure them on behalf of the Agriculture Department that every effort will be made to solve the tenants' problem in the State and to purify the administration in the Department of Consolidation of Land Holdings.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 36,740 on account of A-1-Direction-Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 75,000 on account of E-2 (ii) Destruction of jackals and field rats be reduced by Re. one.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. Speaker : Question is -

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, mithdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr Speaker : Question is:

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

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That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Re. 21.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is:

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 151.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. one.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Re. one.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Re. one.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker; Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Re. one.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost

Mr. Speaker : Now the question is :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,13,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in course of payment for the year 1952—53 in respect of Agriculture.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly, then, adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, the 7th July, 1952.

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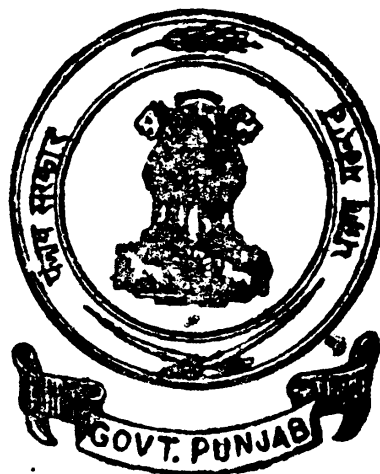
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

MONDAY 7th JULY, 1952.

Vol. II—No. 14.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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PRINTED AT THE SANATAN DHARAM PRESS, GHORA CHOWKI, SIMLA

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

MONDAY, 7TH JULY, 1952.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla—4, at 2 p.m. of the
Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

IMPARTING OF EDUCATION TO CHILDREN ON BASIC SYSTEM IN THE STATE.

* 322. **Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is the established policy of the Government to impart education to children on the basic system of education and therefore, all new schools have to be opened on basic system lines and the old ones be also changed over to that system?

Shri Jagat Narain : The value of the basic system of Education is fully recognised by the Punjab Government in the Department of Education, and steps have already been taken to establish two Basic Teachers' Training Schools in the State to give to the State trained teachers for the introduction of Basic system of education in the schools of the State. The Government has also adopted the policy of opening a number of Basic Primary Schools every year. Most of the new Basic Primary Schools are administered by local bodies, but two Basic Schools are maintained by the Government. The local bodies starting a specified number of Basic schools are given cent per cent grant and as more and more basic trained teachers become available the existing primary schools are being switched over to the basic system. The new syllabi take account of the basic idea.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

* 350. **Professor Sher Singh :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of middle and high schools for girls in Rohtak District at present ;
- (b) the ratio which this number bears to the number of middle and high schools for boys in the above-mentioned district ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) 7 (Seven)

(b) 1:19

GRANT-IN-AID TO HIGH SCHOOL IN UNA TEHSIL.

* 401. **Rai Hari Chand :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to State whether any permanent or provisional grant is given by the Government to any High School in Una Tehsil ; if so, the name of the school together with the amount paid in the year 1952 ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The names of High Schools, in Una Tehsil, which are on the regular grant-in-aid list and those which are un-aided, but were given special grants during 1951-52, are shown in the statements given below. The amount of grants paid to them is also noted against each.

Statement showing the names of High Schools in Una Tehsil, which are on the regular grants-in-aid list, and the amount of grant paid to them during 1951-52.

Name of the School.	Amount of grant paid during 1951-52.
1. S. D. High School Una.	Rs. 5,700
2. Khalsa High School, Anandpur Sahib.	Rs. 4,620
3. S. D. R. High School, Amb. High Department un-aided	Rs. 348

Statement showing the names of High Schools in Una Tehsil, which are not on the regular grants-in-aid list, but were given special grants during 1951—52.

Name of the School.	Amount of grant paid during 1951—52.
1. S. D. R. High School, Amb. (High Deptt. only).	Rs. 490/
2. K. M. S. Public High School, Bhallan.	Rs 75
3. D. A. V. High School, Una.	Rs. 490
4. D. A. V. High School, Khad.	Rs. 100
5. National High School, Ambota.	Rs. 686
6. S. D. High School Chintpurni.	Rs. 294
7. D. A. V. High School Gondpur Banehra.	Rs. 490
8. D. A. V. High School, Takhat Garh.	Rs. 100
9. D. A. V. High School, Santokh Garh.	Rs. 100
10. D. B. High School, Bharvain.	Rs. 500

OVERLOADING IN BUSES OF AMBALA ROADWAYS.

*455. **Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that in certain challans sent up to the court at Karnal, the drivers of the Ambala Roadways convicted for carrying passengers in excess of the number allowed have been acquitted ;
- (b) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to stop their buses from overloading in future ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) Yes.

[Shri Jagat Narain]

(b) The running staff had clear instructions not to overload, but when the traffic was out of control, particularly on the occasion of Kurukshetra fair, they could not resist. However instructions have been issued that the conductors should not entertain any passengers beyond the scheduled carrying capacity of the buses. As overloading has now been effectively stopped, no further steps are necessary in this connection.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the executive head of the district wrote to the trying magistrate suggesting that the Government buses should not be challaned ?

Minister : I require notice.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that the magistrate in his judgment remarked that the rule in respect of overloading did not apply to the Government buses ?

Minister : If the hon. Member informs me about the district to which he is referring, I shall make enquiries.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If anybody imputes any motives or extra legal considerations to any court, he would be committing a contempt of that court.

Shri Abdul Ghafar Khan : On a point of order, Sir. I may draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that Shri Nand Lal is reading a newspaper. Is it permissible to read newspaper in the House?

GOVERNMENT BUS SERVICES IN THE STATE.

*456. **Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the routes in the State together with their mileage on which Government buses are plying since 9th March, 1950;

(b) the names of the routes and their mileage on which Government Bus Services have been started after 9th March, 1950;

(c) the total number of buses employed in the services mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above?

Shri Jagat Narain :

(a) Routes on which Government buses were plying before 9th March, 1950 are given below :—

Name of the route	Description	Mileage.
(1) Jullundur Omnibus Service:—		
City Railway Station to Basti Baba Khel Urban		3·9
City Railway Station to Cantt Railway Station	"	6
Saddar to Civil Secretariat	"	5·7
Saddar to D. A. V. College	"	6
City Railway Station to D. A. V. College	"	2·7
City Railway Station to Basti Gusan.	"	3
City Railway Station to Kartarpur Sub-urban		10·3
Adda Nakodar to Lambra	"	5·7
Adda Kapurthala to Kapurthala District.		11·4
(2) Amritsar Omnibus Service :—		
Hall Gate to Chheharta	Urban	6·5
Railway Station to Chheharta	Urban	5·3
Gandhi Gate to Verka	Urban	5
Gandhi Gate to Jandiala	Sub-urban	12
Railway Station to Rajha Sansi	"	7·3
Hall Gate to Wagha Border	District	18·7
Gandhi Gate to Chhabal	Suburban	12·3
Chati-wind Gate to Tarn Taran	"	12·4

(b) Routes on which Government buses have been started.

after 9-3-1950 are given below :—

(1) Jullundur Omnibus Service :—

Adda Nakodar to Nakodar	District	14·7
City Railway Station to Model Town Urban		3·3
Amritsar to Jullundur.	District	49

[Shri Kedar Nath Saigal]

(2) Amritsar Omnibus Service :—

Ram Bagh to Kapurthala	District	43
Tarn Taran to Naushehra	„	8.3
Tarn Taran to Sirhali	„	11.3
Tarn Taran to Chola Sahib	„	15.3
Ram Bagh to Majitha	„	10.5
Railway Station to Chhagaon	„	14.3
Railway Station to Manjh	„	22.3
Railway Station to Guru ka bag	„	14.9
Tarn Taran to Jandiala	„	10
Tarn Taran to Patti	„	14
Amritsar Sirhali-Hariker	„	35
Hall Gate to Ajnala	„	19
Gandhi Gate to Sur Singh	„	24
Tarn Taran to Dera Sahib	„	14

(3) Ambala Roadways :—

Ambala City Tonga Stand to Cantt.

Tonga Stand	Urban	5.9
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Ambala City Railway Station to

Cantt Railway Station.	Urban	7.4
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Jamna Nagar to Chhachhrauli

District	11.5
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Thanesar to Karnal

District	24
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Ambala City to Karnal

District	52
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Ambala City to Jagadhri

„	62
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Ambala Cantt. to Patiala

„	35
---	----

Ambala City/Cantt. to Kalka

„	42
---	----

Ambala City to Pehowa

„	50
---	----

Kalka to Simla

„	56
---	----

Simla Thanedar

„	49
---	----

Kalka to Chandigarh (Capital Site).

„	11
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Kalka-Sabathu

„	19
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(c) Amritsar Omnibus Service : 98

Jullundur Omnibus Service : 55

Ambala Roadways : 39

BUS FARE ON AMRITSAR JULLUNDUR ROUTE.

***457 Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) the fare charged by the private bus owners on Amritsar-Jullundur route immediately before the route was taken over by the Government ;
- (b) the fare now being charged by the Government buses on the above route ;
- (c) the reasons for the increase, if any ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) Rs. 2/- per seat for upper class and Rs. 1/6/- per seat for lower class.
- (b) Rs. 1/9/- per seat.
- (c) Government Transport Services continued to charge the same fare as was being charged by the private operators before the nationalization. The increase was made in 1951, as minimum fare rates were fixed, in accordance with which the minimum fare for this route works out to Rs. 1/9-/. The private operators as also the railways increased the fare in 1951.

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS' OVERSEERS AND INSPCTORS IN
THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.**

***369. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of Superintending Engineers, Overseers and Inspectors in the P. W. D. in the pre-partition Punjab and at present ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The required information in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch is as under :-

	Number in the pre-partition Punjab	Number at present.
Superintending Engineers.	8	4

[Minister for Public Works]

Overseers.	273	168
Road Inspectors.	Not known.	125

ELETRICITY BRANCH.

(i). No. of Superintending Engineers in the pre-partion Punjab.	6
(ii) No. of Superintending Engineers at present	4
(iii). No. of Overseers in the Pre-partition Punjab.	28
(iv). No. of Overseers employed at present.	29
(v). No. of Road Inspectors in the Pre-partition Punjab.	Nil.
(vi). No. of Road Inspectors at present.	Nil.

REVISION OF GRADES OF OVERSEERS IN THE STATE.

*400. **Rai Harl Chand :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government intend revising the grades of pay of the overseers in the State; if so, when ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The Member may please refer to the Finance Minister's Budget Speech of the 14th June 1952, which indicates the Government's intentions in the matter.

BENEFIT TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS.

*261. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that he made an announcement that political sufferers would be treated like ex-service men; if so, whether any instructions have been issued to the proper quarters, e. the officers and the Departments concerned with the implementation of the same;

- (b) whether any lists of Congress workers and other political sufferers or their dependents intended to be the beneficiaries have been prepared, or any other steps taken in this direction; if so, the same may be laid on the Table?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Government has accepted the principle that political sufferers will be treated like ex-service men.
- (b) It has been decided to constitute Boards in the districts for helping national workers and political sufferers. They are to be entrusted, among other things, with the job of preparing lists of political sufferers, and national workers who are likely to be 'beneficiaries' under the scheme. The detailed constitution of the Boards in the district and State Board as also the scheme under the Charitable Endowments Act for administration of the National Workers' Relief Fund is under examination. The matter will be finalised in a few days' time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know if the political sufferers will get relief in the form of allotment of 10 acres of land per family or in the form of a lump sum just as it was done in the case of ex-soldiers?

Chief Minister : The form of the relief cannot be specified at present.

SUSPENSION OF ARMS-LICENCES DURING GENERAL ELECTIONS

***307. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of arms-licenses suspended in each district in the State during the last general elections together with the number of such licences reinstated since then in each district ;
- (b) the number of such licences together with names of

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]

licences, suspended in Gurgaon District during the period mentioned in part (a) above together with the number and names of those licences who have been reinstated?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The time and labour involved in the collection of information will not be commensurate with the advantage aimed at.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***351. Shri Sher Singh :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of villages where punitive police posts were set up in the year 1951-52 in Rohtak District along with the total expenditure incurred on them;

(b) the amount realised in the form of punitive tax from the people of these villages ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) On 71 villages. The total expenditure incurred on them so far amounts to Rs. 1,34,704/10/6.

(b) Rs. 16,820/- so far.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How much money remains to be recovered ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for it.

REVIVING OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEES IN THE STATE.

+371. Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government intends to revive the Public Relations Committees in all the districts of the State which existed during the regime of Sachar Ministry in the year 1949?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, their personnel will now be :—

Deputy Commissioner (Chairman Ex-officio)

Additional District Magistrate (Secretary Ex-officio.)

Members (Official).

(1) Superintendent of Police.

(2) All Departmental Officers in the district.

(Non-official).

(3) All Members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and the Punjab Legislative Council elected from the district.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What would be the functions of these committees?

Chief Minister : These committees will meet once a month and will make it possible for officials and the non-officials to come closer to each other and exchange views with regard to the grievances of the people. This will obviate the necessity of sending the complaints direct to the Ministers who have again to send them to the local officials for report. Thus the complaints of the public will be disposed of without unnecessary delay and they will be able to get redress of their grievances very soon.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the committees will be entrusted with any executive duties?

Chief Minister: These committees will only make recommendations to the Government about the action to be taken in a particular case.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Supposing, in a certain case, there is a difference of opinion between the Deputy Commissioner and the overwhelming majority of the committee, then what procedure will be adopted to dispose of that case?

Chief Minister : This is a hypothetical question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will these committees deal with cases of corruption, etc?

Chief Minister : Yes. If any complaint of this nature comes before them they will certainly deal with it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Who will be the official members of this committee? Will they be the Heads of the different branches of the district administration or any gazetted officers?

Chief Minister : They will be the heads of the various department in the district.

Rai Raghuvir Singh : Are these committees meant for districts only or sub-divisions also?

Chief Minister : For districts only.

Shri Sri Chand : Will these committees include only Congress M. L. A's or all M. L. A's?

Chief Minister : All the M. L. A's and M. L. C's irrespective of their political affiliations will be the members of these committees.

**S. FAUJA SINGH S/o S. AMAR SINGH OF VILLAGE MAHLAN
WALA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

***379. Sardar Gopal Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether S. Fauja Singh s/o S. Amar Singh and two brothers of Fauja Singh of village Mahlanwala, district Amritsar, applied for help as political sufferers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that while two brothers of S. Fauja Singh have been given land, the above mentioned Fauja Singh has been denied this concession; if so, the reasons for this discrimination?

Sardar Partap Singh Kajron :

- (a) Yes. (The correct particulars in our record are S. Fauja Singh s/o S. Amar Singh, village Illanwala, tehsil Ajnala, district Amritsar).
- (b) (i) Yes.

- (ii) It has been decided to make allotment of land for the present to those political sufferers whose claims have been verified and who had undergone 5 or more years imprisonment or any other higher form of sufferings. The claim of S. Fauja Singh does not fall under this category, as he has undergone only about 1½ years' imprisonment while the claims of his two brothers fulfil the above condition. The case of S. Fauja Singh for allotment of land will be considered along with other pending claims from political sufferers still to be verified.
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**RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER, LUDHIANA.**

***424. Sardar Shamsher Singh:** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of clerks recruited by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, in his office since, 1947;
- (b) the names of such persons together with their qualifications?

Shri Bhim Sain Sachar :

- (a) No clerk has been recruited by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana since 1947.
 - (b) Does not arise.
-

ANNUAL INCREMENT OF SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

***476. Shri Banarsi Dass Gupta:** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police gets an annual increment of Rs. 2/- while the Head Constable who is junior to him gets Rs. 3/- annually; if so; the reasons therefor?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes; the rate of annual increment in each grade is fixed on merits keeping also in view the minimum and the maximum of the grade.

**TAKING INTEREST IN GENERAL ELECTIONS BY
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE.**

***477. Shri Banarsi Dass Gupta :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of Government servants against whom action has been taken for interfering in the last general elections ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : 23 public complaint, mostly of a vague nature, were received. The allegations made in cases so far investigated have not been substantiated. Enquiries into others are still proceeding.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In how many cases has the enquiry been completed and in how many cases is it yet going on ?

Chief Minister : The information has already been given in the reply.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that in some cases it has been completed and in some it has not been completed. He has used the word 'some.' Will he kindly tell the exact number.

Chief Minister ; While going through the reply, I do not find anything to which a definite reply has not been given.

RED CROSS MELA AT AMRITSAR.

***489. Shrimati Parkash Kaur :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state ;—

(a) whether any Red Cross Society Mela was held in the month of May, 1952 at Amritsar; if so, its date;

- (b) whether any funds were collected for this mela by the officers of various Departments and their staff; if so, the total amount so collected;
- (c) (i) whether any booklet with 10 parchis of one rupee each were got printed and the same given to the Magistrates, Revenue Officers, Civil Supplies Officers, Police Officers, Patwaris with directions by Shri D. D. Sharma, Additional District Magistrate, Amritsar to collect funds from the public?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

- (a) Yes. The Red Cross Mela was held on the 24th, 25th and 26th May, 1952, under the auspices of the District Red Cross Society and was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Punjab, who is also the Chairman of the State Branch of the Red Cross Society.
- (b) Yes. The total collections amounted to Rs. 45,000/-.
- (c) It is correct that booklets, containing 10 admission tickets of the price of Rs. 1/- each, for adults and other tickets of annas eight and four each for women and children respectively were got printed and sent to Magistrates, Revenue Officers and certain other departments for sale to the public, on a strictly voluntary basis. No tickets were sent for sale to the officers of the Civil Supplies or the Police departments.

The Additional District Magistrate, Amritsar, was in general charge of the Mela. Under paragraph 3.29 of the District Office Manual, Government Servants are authorised to associate themselves with the raising or receiving of subscriptions for the Red Cross Society.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Is the Chief Minister not of the opinion that by compelling the people to buy these tickets for the fair these officers have brought a bad name to the Congress Government?

Chief Minister : There has not been any case of compulsion. I ask the hon. Lady Member to inform me of any such case that has come to her knowledge.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Is it not a fact that this fair was held at the initiative of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar on the eve of his retirement in order, as the public says, to win appreciation?

Chief Minister : The hon. Lady Member fully knows that this fair is held every year.

LAND BROUGHT UNDER CULTIVATION UNDER THE UTILISATION OF WASTE LANDS ACT IN THE STATE.

* 262. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total area of land, district-wise brought under cultivation under the Utilisation of Waste Lands Act up to 1st June, 1952 in the State together with land revenue and other income that has accrued to the Government on that account ;
- (b) the area of State-owned land, district-wise, not so far leased out under the said Act and the reasons therefor ;
- (c) the private land-owners' cultivable area, district-wise, to which the aforesaid Act is applicable ;
- (d) the approximate period within which all the cultivable land will be broken up and brought under cultivation under the aforesaid Act ;
- (e) the measures such as irrigation, mechanised farming and loans for implements, adopted by the Government to help the lessees in cultivating such lands ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : Information is available at present up to the 30th April, 1952 as follows :—

(a) (i)	District.	Area cultivated.
	Hissar	—
	Rohtak	8494
	Gurgaon	684
	Karnal	6899
	Ambala	12713

Kangra	3550
Hoshiarpur	385
Jullundur	—
Ludhiana.	523
Ferozepore.	—
Amritsar.	3208
Gurdaspur	2866

(ii) Information about land revenue and other income is not readily available.

(b) Nil. The Act does not apply to State-owned land.

(c)	District.	Area in acres.
	Hissar	46500
	Rohtak	20366
	Gurgaon	47963
	Karnal	390525
	Ambala	21584
	Kangra.	39472
	Hoshiarpur.	89968
	Jullundur.	66608
	Ludhiana.	731
	Ferozepore.	6989
	Amritsar.	15315
	Gurdaspur.	20619

(d) In accordance with the terms of lease, the owners and lessees are required to break half of that waste land within a period ranging from 6 to 11 months, but in view of failure of rains, this time-limit has been extended up to the 30th September, 1952. It is not possible to foresee the period during which all waste lands would be broken.

(e) Like ordinary cultivators, the lessees can take loans for sinking of wells and get the tractors of the Agriculture Department on hire. No special funds have been earmarked for lessees.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN THE STATE

* 308. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government has considered the advisability of completing the work of consolidation of holdings in the areas selected for community projects in the State ; if so, the steps so far taken by the Government to ensure the same with particular reference to Faridabad Project?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

First part Yes.

Second part Government proposes to start consolidation of Holdings operations in Ballabgarh Tehsil, which includes Faridabad.

SELECTION OF COMMUNITY PROJECT CENTRES IN THE STATE.

* 352. **Shri Sher Singh** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) criterion for the selection of community project centres in the State ;
- (b) whether there is any Committee or Board which is responsible for fixing such a criterion or there is one officer or a group of officers who do it ; if so, the personnel of such Committees or Boards (official and non-official);
- (c) whether the State Government have any hand in the selection of centres and blocks and the particular items to be taken up in a centre ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

- (a) Availability of irrigation facilities or assured rainfall, likelihood of getting fresh irrigation, re-settlement of displaced persons, location of project areas so as to fit in a programme of intensive development of the entire State.

- (b) The criteria have been laid down by the Planning Commission who act as the Central Committee for the Project.
- (c) The centres are selected by the Central Committee on the recommendation of the State Government. A State Development Committee, with the Chief Minister as Chairman and most of the other Ministers and the Financial Commissioner, Development, as members, has been set up to supervise the working of the Community Projects scheme in the Punjab which will be on the lines of the model scheme prepared by the Government of India, with suitable modifications to suit local conditions.
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LAND TO HARIJANS FOR CULTIVATION IN THE STATE.

*534. **Sardar Khem Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the steps taken by the Punjab Government to give land to Harijans for their cultivation in the State?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : Government has not made any distinction between the Harijan tenants and other tenants. They have grouped these two together as a class of landless tenants. But for the sake of information to my hon. Friends, I may say that out of 2862 acres of waste lands leased so far to landless tenants in Karnal District, the Harijans have taken on lease 1617 acres. For landless tenants in Gurgaon, Ferozepur and Hissar, the area reserved so far is 5267 acres.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has any land been reserved for the Harijans tenants in Rohtak District?

Minister : How does it arise? The main question relates to the whole of the Punjab.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It does arise. The district of Rohtak is comprised in the Punjab?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

SHAMILAT LAND FOR HARIJANS IN THE STATE.

***535. Sardar Khem Singh :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the decision taken by the Punjab Government in regard to the shamilat land to be made common to Harijans as well in the State?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The proposal for the grant of proprietary rights to non-proprietary classes (including Harijans) in respect of shamilat lands in villages is under the consideration of the Government.

Sardar Khem Singh : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state when this policy will be finalised?

Minister : I hope it will be finalised by the end of this year.

**CONSTRUCTION OF BIST DOAB CANAL AND EXPANSION OF
SHAH NAHAR.**

***324. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the construction of Bist Doab Canal has begun; if so, when it is expected to irrigate land in Jullundur District;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, when it can be expected that Government will start constructing the said canal ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend the Shah Nahar to Jullundur District; if so, when?

Chaudhri Labri Singh :

- (a) Yes. The excavation of the Bist Doab Canal Commenced in January 1952. The canal will begin to irrigate land during Kharif 1954.
- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) Survey and preparation of the Scheme of Jullundur Branch of Shah Nahar Canal is in progress. The work will be taken in hand as and when funds are available.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS IN JULLUNDUR CITY.

*502. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of Basti Danishmandan and Mohalla Abadpura, Jullundur city have made representations to the Government for the installation of Electricity connections in their respective *Ilagas*; if so, the steps the Government intends taking in the matter?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The answer to the first part is in the negative.

Mohalla Abadpura has already been electrified. The question of electrification of Basti Danishmandan will be taken up when sufficient load comes up in this area to justify extension of supply.

SUGAR AND CEMENT FACTORIES IN THE STATE.

*69. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government has in view any plans to start more sugar and cement factories in the State; if so, where and when?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : *Sugar factories.* On the basis of the recommendations of the Sugar Panel for the development of sugar industry during the post-war period, the Government of India allotted three sugar units to this State. The Punjab Government selected Sohal (District Gurdaspur), Sahnewal (District Ludhiana) and Sambhalka (District Karnal) for the installation of these three units. Private parties to whom these units were to be allotted were also selected and necessary permission was granted to them to proceed with the installation of the factories. But no new factories have been set up so far. The Government of India, on the basis of the recommendations of the planning Commission, have now intimated that the establishment of new sugar factories should not be encouraged but instead full encouragement should be given

[Sardar Ujjal Singh]

to the uneconomic units to expand their capacity so as to reduce the cost of production and that full facilities should be given to those factories which are unfavourably located to shift to new sites in the same State or even outside where sugarcane might be more readily available. They have further asked the various State Governments to review the position and to withdraw the permission for the establishment of new sugar mills from parties wherever steps have not already been taken by the licencees in connection with the construction of sugar factories or firm orders placed for import of machinery to start new units. The position is accordingly being reviewed in this State.

Cement factories. Government have no plan in view to start more cement factories in the State.

Sardar Chanan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that no new sugar factories are proposed to be set up in the State for the present. Will he be pleased to state the steps, if any the Government proposes to take to dispose of the quantity of sugarcane collected by the cultivators ?

Minister : The Government would endeavour to see that those stocks are purchased by the mill-owners and that the cultivators are not made to suffer any loss.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Is it not a fact that many of the factory-owners have not yet paid the price of the sugarcane to the cultivators ? If so, the action that the Government proposes to take to ensure payment to these poor peasants ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Sardar Achhar Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Whatever supplementaries are put from this side of the House, the Chair disallows them. What I mean to enquire is, what steps does the Government propose to take to ensure that the payments are made to the cultivators from whom sugarcane was purchased by the mill-owners but for which payments were withheld ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the Government have written to

the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, to intimate if the people are willing to buy the shares of a new sugar factory proposed to be installed there ?

Minister : I haven't got precise information on the subject but I have already stated in my reply that all facilities would be given to those factories which were unfavourably located to shift to new sites.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that in accordance with the recent instructions from the Government of India the establishment of new sugar factories can not be encouraged but, at the same time, it has been declared that amenities will be provided to the industrialists who wish to instal sugar factories. May I know what is the actual policy of the Government ? Does it want to carry out the instructions of the Centre or have its own way of action ?

Minister : Sir, my submission is that the establishment of new sugar factories can not be encouraged in accordance with the Government of India's instructions but instead full facilities, if and when asked for, would be given to the existing factories in any part of India to shift to a place in the Punjab.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the Government will encourage the establishment of new sugar factories ?

Chief Minister : It has already been clearly affirmed that the Government of India has directed us not to grant permission for the installation of new factories but that every possible help and assistance should be rendered to economise the existing factories in the State. Therefore, the question of setting up of new sugar factories does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir my question is, when it is a fact that the Government of India have directed us not to set up any more sugar factories in the State, why did the Government write a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, enquiring about the number of shares that the people would be prepared to buy in order to setup a new sugar factory in that area.

Minister for Finance : In this respect, I would like to submit that a particular party who claims to have got a plant and is desirous of shifting to a new site has approached the Government. The

[Minister for Finance]

enquiries in the matter are in progress and the factory would be installed at a convenient place. It should not, however, be presumed that the factory would be set up at Gurdaspur as the preliminaries are still under consideration. Therefore, according to the position explained, the question of defying the directions of the Government of India does not arise.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that certain factory-owners who procured sugar cane from the cultivators are not yet clearing their dues simply on the plea that their stocks of sugar are lying undisposed of? If so what steps does the Government propose to take to ensure payment to the growers?

Mr. Speaker: This is irrelevant.

Minister : Sir I have already stated that I require notice for such a question.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is contemplating any change in the sites already selected for the installation of the three sugar factories referred to above?

Minister . The question does not arise.

Shri Babu Dyal ; Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that a sugar factory was proposed to be set up at Gurgaon and the necessary survey held?

Minister : No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the growing demand of cement in the State any new cement factory is proposed to be set up?

Minister : The Government has no plan to start any more cement factories in the State at present but encouragement and full facilities will be provided to the existing Bhupindra Cement Factory to increase its output.

RENT OF EVACUEE PROPERTY IN THE STATE.

* 263. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government have received any representations that the rents at present charged for the evacuee property in the State are generally high and that the refugees occupying it are unable to pay these rents ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in towns like Gohana, Meham, and Jhajjar in Rohtak district, a large number of refugees being unable to pay rents, have left the town ;
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) No representations have, in recent months, been received that the rents of evacuee property are generally high, and only isolated cases of individual units of the property have been represented to the Department. Representations are, however, sometimes received that displaced persons are unable to pay the rents,
- (b) No .
- (c) Fair Rent Re-assessment Committees were constituted in each urban area to advise the District Rent Officer to fix fair rents in respect of the evacuee property units which were reported to be excessively assessed.

Instructions have been issued to district officers not to harass widows and destitutes who are not in a position to pay rent and to recover arrears in reasonable instalments in suitable cases.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Are these Fair Rent Assessment Committees still functioning ?

Minister : No. These committees functioned for two years only during the period 1st April, 1950, to 1st April, 1952, They ceased functioning on 1st April, 1952.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What is the procedure for the assessment of fair rent now ?

Minister : All such cases are now disposed of by the District Rent Officers.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is there any proposal to set up a machinery for this purpose ?

Minister : This matter is not under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that during the period of the slump the Government provided some facilities to the allottees of factories.

Minister : Yes. During the period of the slump, their rents were reduced by 50 % for three months only.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister be pleased to state the names of places where the Fair Rent Assessment Committees used to function ?

Minister : I have already stated that the committees functioned almost in all the districts. Their names are Ambala, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Karnal, Ferozepur, Simla, Hissar, and Hoshiarpur.

Shri Ram Kishan : Were the recommendations of these committees accepted and implemented ?

Minister : Yes. The rent of 6,502 houses was reduced.

Shri Nand Lal : Out of how many ?

Minister : I cannot tell off hand the number of applications received.

Shri Ram Kishan : Was any recommendation made by the Committee at Jullundur and was it carried out ?

Minister : Yes. The rent of 74¹ houses at Jullundur was reduced.

Shri Ram Kishan : How many applications were received in all ?

Minister : The information is not available at present.

**UNAUTHORISED POSSESSION OF HOUSES AND SHOPS LEFT
BY THE MUSLIMS IN THE STATE.**

* 372 Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he has received any complaints from the public to the effect that even after the lapse of 4 or 5 years after the partition many evacuee houses and shops in different towns and villages are still in unauthorised possession ;
- (b) the steps the Government intends to take to remove these complaints ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh :

- (a) Some stray complaints to this effect have been received from the public from time to time and necessary action has been taken in each individual case.
- (b) Instructions, have already been issued that all pending cases relating to the unauthorised possession of urban property prior to 1st March, 1952, should be decided on merits at an early date and that such occupation should not in any case be recognised where the occupants entered into the property after 1st March, 1952.

MOSQUES LEFT BY MUSLIMS IN THE STATE.

* 338. Shri Jagdish Chandra: Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of mosques left in the State by the evacuee Muslims ;
- (b) the number of mosques still unused and in possession of the Government ;
- (c) the steps so far taken to eject the unlawful occupants of these mosques ;
- (d) the use to which the mosques are intended to be put by the Government ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : It is not in public interest to disclose the information asked for.

CLAIMS AGAINST CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN WEST PUNJAB

***389 Shri Jagdish Chandra:** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

- (a) the steps taken, so far, to meet the claims of the refugees against the Co-operative Societies in Punjab (Pakistan);
- (b) whether the co-operative Department of the State is responsible for getting these claims adjusted; if so, how?

Sardar Partap Singh Kalron:

- (a) After strenuous efforts, Government Securities of the face value of Rs. 41 lacs were recovered from Punjab (Pakistan) in 1950. These Securities were earmarked to pay up dues of the displaced persons (refugees) against Co-operative Institutions of Punjab (Pakistan). The total dues were 59,81,313. The deficiency was made good by utilizing some of the money of Muslim evacuees left in some Co-operative Institutions in Punjab (India) in excess of the deposits of those institutions still locked up in Pakistan. Payments to the refugees were started on 1st August, 1950 through the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank and the affiliated Central Cooperative Banks.

The particulars of these payments are as follows:—

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (1) Total amount paid up to 20th June 1952 | Rs. 46,02,578/- |
| (2) Total number of claims received. | 2,887 |
| (3) Total number of claims paid. | 2,514 |
| (4) Total number of claims under consideration | 135 |
| (5) Total number of claims returned under objection. | 238 |

- (b) Co-operative Department is morally if not legally responsible to get these claims adjusted and efforts to this end continue.

— — —

INDUSTRIAL CENTRES AT LUDHIANA.

***390. Shri Jagdish Chandra:** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the steps so far taken by the Government to establish the two Industrial Centres, regarding the manufacture of Cycle parts and textile and hosiery goods at Ludhiana?

Sardar Ujjal Singh: The Department of Industries has worked out detailed schemes showing staff, machinery, equipment and expenditure required for a testing centre for the cycle parts industry and a finishing centre for textile & hosiery goods at Ludhiana. The possibility of starting the first scheme estimated to cost Rs. 3½ lacs as a state-owned undertaking has been carefully considered by the Government but they found it impossible to include the scheme in the current year's budget. The second scheme was conceived to be a co-operative venture jointly sponsored by the principal textile interests of Ludhiana. They have, however, so far been unable to raise the necessary capital for the scheme amounting to Rs. six lacs, although the Industries Department has been trying to encourage them to make this investment. The scheme can be launched as soon as the required funds are raised for the purpose by the industrialists.

Shri Jagdish Chandra: How long will it take to arrange for the finances?

Minister: It is for my hon. Friend to arrange these finances with the help of the industrialists.

Shri Ram Kishan: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he has received any representation from Cycle Parts Manufacturers Association, Jullundur?

Minister: I do not remember.

**RE-INSTATEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF JULLUNDUR,
KARTARPUR, RAHON AND LUDHIANA**

***325. Shri Ram Kishan:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state when the Government proposes to re-instate:

[Shri Ram Kishan]

- (i) the Jullundur City Municipality
- (ii) the Kartarpur Municipality
- (iii) the Rahon Municipality; and
- (iv) the Ludhiana Municipality?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:

- (i) The Government proposes to review the position of Jullundur Municipality with a view to reconstituting it after one year from the date of its supersession.
- (ii) Kartarpur Municipal Committee has been re-constituted for the purposes of next general elections to this Committee and with effect from the date of the publication of the results thereof in the Gazette.
- (iii) The Government proposes to review the position of Rahon Municipality in March, 1953 with a view to reconstituting it.
- (iv) Ludhiana Municipal Committee has been reconstituted for the purposes of next general elections to this Committee and with effect from the date of publication of the results thereof in the Gazette.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know why the Jullundur Municipality was suspended?

Minister : Because its work was not satisfactory.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Minister prepared to institute an enquiry in this respect?

Minister : The municipality was suspended as a result of an enquiry.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I ask the hon. Minister whether it was not sufficient to take action against the one or two persons at fault.

Mr. Speaker: This question does not arise.

Shri Ram Kishan : Is the hon. Minister aware that if action is taken against one or two persons it serves as an eye-opener to the others?

Mr. Speaker : It doesn't arise.

Shrinati Sita Devi : May I ask the hon. Minister that if the charges were not of a serious nature why was the municipality suspended?

Minister : No doubt the charges were ordinary, but the number of members involved was very large.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister be prepared to place a copy of the charges on the Table of the House?

Minister : I require notice for that.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does it mean that if the number of persons involved in a crime is large, it is not considered to be an offence?

Minister : Of course it is a crime but the punishment is given according to the nature of the crime.

RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS ETC. IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES AND RATIONING DEPARTMENT IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT

***425 Sardar Shamsher Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Clerks, Enquiry Officers, recruited in the Civil Supplies and Rationing Department in Ludhiana District since 1947 :

(a) the names of such persons together with their qualifications

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :

(a) Two hundred and three.

(b) Two statements are laid on the Table. †

† kept in the Library.

**SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN SHAHPUR KANDI
AND ADJOINING AREAS.**

***72 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to remove the Scarcity of drinking water from Shahpur Kandi and adjoining areas in Pathankot Tehsil ?

Shri Jagat Narain : In view of the fact that the rough forecast of the cost of a scheme for the removal of scarcity of drinking water from Shahpur Kandi and adjoining areas in Pathankot Tehsil was estimated at Rs. 16 lakhs, it was considered necessary to test the yield of existing wells with a view to verifying whether a cheaper scheme based on such wells as the source of supply could not be adopted. Funds required by the Public Health Engineering Department to carry out the necessary yield tests have been placed at their disposal and it will be possible to formulate plans on receipt of the result of the preliminary investigation by the Department.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the fact that the Government gave this very assistance two years back, will the Government please say as to how much time the scheme will take to materialise ?

Minister : We shall try to implement it as early as possible.

**SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER IN HISSAR
AND GURGAON DISTRICTS.**

*** 309. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware that parts of Hissar and Gurgaon Districts experience serious shortage of drinking water both for human and the cattle during summer every year;
- (b) the steps, if any, the Government proposes to take in this connection ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

- (a) Yes.

- (b) Government, through the Sanitary Board sanctioned grants-in-aid to the extent of Rs. 1,41,413/- during the last four years with a view to removing the shortage of drinking water in Hissar and Gurgaon districts. Besides this, a sum of Rs. 97,968/- was placed at the disposal of the Director of Panchayats, Punjab, during the year 1951-52, for improvement of water supply and sanitation conditions in panchayat villages of this State, including water scarcity areas in these two districts. Further, a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is usually placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board each year for distribution of grants-in-aid to local bodies for water supply and sanitation schemes. An additional sum of rupees eight lakhs is proposed to be placed at the disposal of the Panchayat Department during this year for being utilized for similar purposes in rural areas and this will be further supplemented with a part of the money collected by the Panchayats for the same object.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : How much money out of this has been earmarked for Gurgaon ?

Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : May I ask the Government whether they have granted permission to fill the village ponds with canal water ?

Minister : I require notice for this also.

CURRICULA AND SYLLABI FOR THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CLASSES IN THE STATE.

* 323 **Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Advisory Board of Books had decided about the curricula and syllabi for the primary and the secondary classes in the State ; if so, a copy of the same be laid on the Table of the House ?

Shri Jagat Narain : Yes. A copy of the syllabi is laid on the Table*

* Kept in the Library.

**GRANT-IN-AID TO DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS OF
HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.**

* 402 **Raj Hari Chand :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that the District Board, Hoshiarpur moved the Government by a certain resolution to raise the Educational grant-in-aid from 60% to 90 % and this resolution was rejected by the Government in spite of the recommendations of the sub-committee formed for the revision of such grants ; if so, whether the Government will again review its decision in view of the fact that without this increase the District Board is not capable of opening the new schools in the District resulting in debarring a great section of the population from getting primary educational facilities from the District Board ?

Shri Jagat Narain :

1. Yes.
2. The recommendations of the committee set up by the Government for reviewing the system of grants to local bodies for vernacular education are being considered by it.

INCREASE IN FARES.

* 458. **Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the bus fares per mile have been increased by the Government since 1949 in the State, if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The reply to the first part is 'No' . The second part does not arise.

**PURCHASE OF PETROL FOR THE GOVERNMENT BUSES
IN THE STATE**

* 459 **Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government purchases its requirements of petrol for State buses from its own petrol pumps, if not, from what other agencies;

- (b) whether the Government pays sales tax on the purchase of petrol for Government buses;
- (c) the amount of sales tax which would ordinarily be on the total purchases of petrol if the same was to be payable purchased by parties other than the Government?

Shri Jagat Narain:

- (a) Yes. However, if at any time there is a break-down of the consumer petrol pump of the Service or when it is not possible to obtain petrol supplies direct from the Service pump in view of dead mileage involved, it is purchased from private petrol dealers.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Question does not arise. If the total purchases of petrol had been made by the parties other than the Government the amount of Sales tax payable would have been the same, as was actually paid by the Government.

ACCIDENTS TO STATE BUSES

***460. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of accidents in which the Government buses were involved in the years 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52;
- (b) the number of accidents which resulted in fatal injuries to the persons travelling in the buses during the period mentioned in part (a) above;
- (c) the number of the accidents which resulted in fatal injuries to lower class passengers;
- (d) the compensation, if any, paid by the Government to the victims of such accidents in the State?

Shri Jagat Narain:

(a) 1949—50 9

[Minister for Education]

1950—51 8

1951—52 28

(b) 1949—50 3

1950—51 2

1951—52 5

(c) Same as in (b) above.

(d) Rs. 500/- so far,

PROVINCIALIZATION OF CIVIL DISPENSARY AT THANESAR

***475. Shri Banarsi Dass Gupta:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Civil Dispensary at Thanesar has been provincialised; if not, the reasons therefor?

Shri Jagat Narain: No. The provincialisation of hospitals and dispensaries is carried out on certain conditions being fulfilled by the local bodies concerned. As the District Board, Karnal, was not agreeable to fulfil one of the conditions, viz., repairs to the dispensary buildings at a cost of Rs. 13,500/- before handing them over to Government, the question of the provincialisation of the said dispensary could not be considered by the Government.

Shri Banarsi Dass Gupta: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that an assurance was held out by the Government that those dispensaries will be provincialized in the near future?

Minister: Whatever information I had I have supplied to the hon. Member. If he wishes to have more information, he may take the trouble of giving a fresh notice.

PURCHASE OF MEDICINES BY PATIENTS IN CIVIL HOSPITALS

***536. Sardar Khem Singh:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the patients admitted in General Wards of Civil Hospitals in the State have to purchase certain medicines from the market; if so, upto what extent;

(b) whether the out-door patients have to purchase mostly the medicines from the market; if so, to what extent?

Shri Jagat Narain: (a) Yes; to the extent of only those medicines which though on the Priced Vocabulary List, have not been supplied for the time being by the Medical Store Depot or which have run out of stock temporarily in a hospital and also those medicines which are not on the Priced Vocabulary List.

(b) As under (a) above.

DEMAND FOR GRANT

Miscellaneous

Minister for Finance : (Sardar Ujjal Singh): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,01,72,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952—53 in respect of Miscellaneous.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,01,72,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that have or will come in the course of payment for the year 1952—53 in respect of Miscellaneous.

In this connection, I would like to point out that notices of 32 cut motions in respect of this Demand have been received and the same will as usual be deemed to have been moved and will, therefore, be discussed along with the main motion.

1. **Sardar Achhar Singh :**
2. **Sardar Chanan Singh :** That the item of Rs. 13,83,850/- on account of Expenditure on rehabilitation be reduced by Rs. 100/-
3. **Shri Nand Lal :**
4. **Shrimati Parkash Kaur :** That the item of Rs. 57,85,490/- on account of Relief of Refugees be reduced by Rs. 100/-
5. **Shri Dev Rai Sethi :** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

6. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
7. **Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
8. **Shri Chandi Ram Verma** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
9. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
10. **Rai Hari Chand** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. 1/-.
11. **Shri Ram Kishan** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
12. **Sardar Waryam Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
13. **Jathedar Mohan Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
14. **Shri Jagdish Chandra** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 251/-.
15. **Shri Abhai Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
16. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
17. **Shri Ram Chandra** : That the Demand be reduced by Re. nil.
18. **Shri Dev Raj Anand** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 200/-.
19. **Shrimati Shanno Devi** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
20. **Sardar Ajmer Singh** :
21. **Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
22. **Sadar Shamsheer Singh** :
23. **Shri Gurdatt Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
24. **Chaudhri Mohd Yasin Khan** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
25. **Chaudhri Mohd. Yasin Khan** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
26. **Sardar Hari Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
27. **Shri Daulat Ram Sharma** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
28. **Shri Ram Sarup** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.
29. **Rai Raghuvir Singh** : That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

30. **Shri Teg Ram:** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

31. **Shri Baloo Ram:**

32. **Shri Kesho Dass:** That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Mr. Speaker: Now, I call upon Sardar Ajmer Singh to initiate the discussion.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (Punjabi): Sir; this Demand for Rs. 2,01,72,000 includes expenditure to be incurred by the Government on the displaced persons. As far as I can see, rehabilitation of the refugees is an important matter because nearly one-fifth of the people in the State are displaced persons. Out of a population of one crore twenty-five lakhs, twenty-six lakhs of persons are refugees who have come over from the other side of the border. In spite of the fact that five years have elapsed, the problem of their resettlement still confronts us. These people are the blood of our blood and the flesh of our flesh. They are also Punjabis like us and they have the same culture as ours. But it is a matter of deep regret that our Government has not been able to rehabilitate them during the last five years in a satisfactory manner. They have been asked time and again to shift from one place to another. Even those who got settled have not been able to find peace of mind and satisfaction. They have not been provided with the minimum amenities that an ordinary human being requires for an ordinary mode of living. The standard of living of these people who have come from Western Pakistan was higher than that of original residents of East Punjab. We don't grudge them their mode of living in any way, nor have we any desire to lower it. But we do press upon the Government the necessity of providing them at least the bare necessities of life. So far, it has failed to do so although a period of five years has passed by. In my opinion, the Government should realize its responsibility towards them. As a matter of fact, the displaced persons are not to be blamed for what happened after the partition of the country. It is the Congress Government and its communal outlook that is responsible for the partition and its after-effects.

Minister for Public Works: Was not Master Tara Singh a party to this decision?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : No. He was not a party to it. The decision to draw a line across the map of the Punjab was arrived at by the Congress Party in consultation with the British Government at Dehli. The line which divides Punjab was ...

✓ **Mr Speaker :** Is the hon. Member quite relevant? This matter has been settled once for all and it is no use discussing it. The hon Member should confine his remarks to the motion under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Member

Sardar Ajmer Singh : I will be coming to the subject matter under discussion in a moment. Please have patience with me for just two minutes

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order in asking the Chair to have patience?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : I did not ask the Chair to have patience. I only asked my hon. Friend, who interrupted, to do so.

Mr. Speaker : But the hon. Member is supposed to address the Chair.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, we have every respect for the Chair.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : This is a lie.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, is the hon. Member using parliamentary language?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Of course, it is absolutely unparliamentary.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, I was saying that it was the responsibility of the Government to compensate the refugees fully for the losses suffered by them. As a result of the partition small doles are not going to satisfy them. As a matter of fact, all the inhabitants of this country should be asked to contribute towards a fund for their relief. Even if all the Punjabis are asked to pay for it at the rate of Rs. 5/- per head, the amount collected will be appreciable. We are ready to pay such a tax for the relief of the displaced persons. But my view is that all the persons living in India should be taxed for this purpose. It is the responsibility of the Government and it should not shirk it. In fact the displaced persons should be fully compensated, from whatever quarter the

money necessary for this purpose comes. The cuts which our Government has imposed while making allotment of land are quite unjustified. Full compensation should have been given in the first instance. If there was to be any imposition of cuts it should have been applied later on, on the displaced as well as on the non-displaced land lords. Those persons who have been given lands in the 'Bet' area in lieu of vast tracts of land they have left in Pakistan have been hit hard. Sir, I beg to submit that the Government should realize its responsibility towards the displaced persons and it should put every possible pressure upon the Government of India to make it accept the suggestion of levying a tax on all the inhabitants of the country. There can be no better charitable purpose than this.

When the Government imposed a cut in the matter of allotment of lands, it was said that the imposition of a proportionate cut was unavoidable because the area of land left by Muslims was much less than that abandoned by Hindu and Sikh refugees in West Punjab. This being so I think that atleast the evacuee property in this State should have been held as a trust by our Government for displaced persons. All of it should have been utilised for compensating the displaced persons. But what we actually see is that if the Government required some land for starting agricultural farms, industrial centres, capital project or other institution, it utilised the unallotted evacuee land. What the government should have done is that in the first instance all the evacuee land should have been allotted to the displaced persons and then it might have acquired it for such purposes from them on payment of compensation. Lakhs of acres of land which should have been allotted to these people have been put to other uses by the Government. A part of evacuee land has been given to new refugees as compensation for the lands acquired by the Government from them. Similarly, a number of evacuee houses in the towns are being used for Government purposes. These also should have been allotted to the refugees and then acquired if necessary, on payment or compensation. Lakhs of acres of land belonging to Muslim evacuees have not been allotted so far. It was the duty of the Government to redeem the mortgaged evacuee land by paying the mortgage money and to allot it to the displaced land owners. Then, Sir, the people of 'Bet' area deserve special consideration. In this area, some of the lands are so inferior that not more

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

than ten or twenty maunds of foodgrains are yielded by an area of 100 or 200 bighas.

The method of giving loans and grants is such that it is not doing any good to the people. When a villager applies for a taccavi loan, the Patwari, the Girdwar, the Naib Tehsildar and the Tehsildar have to report on his application. After pleasing the village Patwari, the applicant has to pay a number of visits to the Tehsil headquarters. for getting a loan of fifty or sixty rupees, he has to spend about twenty five or thirty rupees. The Government can remove this difficulty of the villages by arranging the distribution of these loans in the villages. The Revenue Assistants, Tehsildars and their staff can go to the villages and distribute money among to the deserving applicants. Many villagers do not know that the money advanced by the Government has got to be returned. As a matter of fact, the policy of our Government is ruining the displaced land-owners instead of rehabilitating them. A large number of farmers who have not yet been able to make their two ends meet are being asked to repay the loans. In many cases, attachment orders have been issued against and penalties imposed on such people. Is this the way of rehabilitating displaced persons? The Government should either convert these loans into grants or postpone their recovery.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that the urban refugees have not been properly resettled but at the same time it cannot be denied that their condition is comparatively better than that of rural displaced persons. Many urban refugees got loans from the Government and started business. They are in a position to earn their livelihood but a large number of rural refugees are still unsettled. These people and especially those settled in the Bet area deserve special consideration from the Government. The productivity of most of the land in the Bet area is very low and there are no houses to live in. During the rainy season a large portion of these lands remains under water and even afterwards there are so many mosquitoes that it is impossible to live there. There are no schools in this area and the means of communication are very poor. If possible, the people of this area should be settled at some other place. Special attention should be paid to Mochhiwara and Sidhwan Bet areas. There used to be a High School in Mochhiwara.

it was run by the Muslims, who have migrated to Pakistan. As the refugees who have settled there were unable to meet its running expenses and the cost of repairs of the damaged rooms of the school, it has been reduced to a Middle School by the Government. How does the Government expect these uprooted people to provide the necessary funds. Such conditions should be waived in the case of displaced persons.

To add to the difficulties of the displaced rural people, they have been included in the definition of the terms 'Land owner' under the Punjab Tenants' (Security of Tenure) Act, 1952. Is it not unfair to apply the provision of this Act to these persons who have no proprietary rights over the lands allotted to them and cannot alienate them? They are being subjected to the restriction of this Act in respect of land over which they have no rights of ownership. I shall request the Government to give the right of ownership to the allottees of evacuee land, as early as possible. If the Government has genuine sympathy with these people, it should give them their rights. They should be given full compensation for their losses so that they may not have to knock about from one place to another. They are our own brethren and the Government should give them the maximum help in the matter of rehabilitation.

Chaudhri Mohd. Yasin Khan (Ferozepur Jhirka) (Hindi): Sir, the subject is vast but the time is short and, therefore, I shall have to compress what I want to say. I shall only refer to the shortcomings of the Government in the work of resettlement of displaced persons. A very large number of those who have been settled in Faridabad Township owned houses and lands in N. W. F. P. This Government has allotted them neither houses nor lands and all the money spent on their rehabilitation has been provided by the Government of India. No arrangements have been made for their livelihood for the past several months and many of them are without work. If really our State Government did not feel any obligation of allotting lands to those helpless people, why at all did it allow them to settle on territory within its jurisdiction? All that these people have got is a room or two and no land has been allotted to them. Amongst these refugees, there are some families who have been allotted land but they have been given small strips, in some cases fifty miles apart, as a result of which joint families have been broken up and close relations

[Chaudhri Mohd Yasin Khan]

separated from each other. Hoping that many other hon Members will dwell on this matter, I leave it here.

I now advert to the Muslims who have been rendered homeless and landless though all the time they have been living here in India. So far as I know arrangements for the resettlement of displaced Muslims have been made in District Gurgaon and in the *ilaga* of Buria in Ambala. It is amazing that no effort has so far been made or is proposed to be made to rehabilitate such Muslims in other districts as have been rendered homeless while they were all the time living in India despite the fact that the Government had announced that its policy was that displaced Muslims would be treated at par with the displaced persons coming from West Punjab. So far, it has not been specified as to whom and by what date they should apply for restoration of their lands and houses. There is no knowing on what lucky date the Government will invite applications from them in this connection. Five years have nearly elapsed. How much longer will they have to wait? I am here reminded of the story of a *Faqir* who would not tell his newly appointed *chela* (disciple) any thing and after a lapse of six years the *Faqir* told the disciple that 'Gilsafa' was another name for 'Phaori' with which he used to clear the refuse of the horse. I wonder if this Government is also waiting for the sixth year to elapse and only after that it will name the date. In this category come thousands of Muslim families of this State who have been carrying on business in other parts of the country for the past several generations and whom the Partition has without their moving from their places rendered homeless and deprived them of their ancestral property.

Leaving the case of Jagadhri Tehsil to other Friends I revert to District Gurgaon. Let me first tell you, Sir, something about the Census of Meos held in 1948. The announcement about the holding of this Census on 3rd and 5th July was made at the Tehsil Headquarters on 1st July, 1948 i. e., at two days notice. In many villages, no enumeration could be made because the stock of printed forms with the patwaris had finished. Moreover, a large number of Muslims did not get themselves enumerated fearing that the Census was being held to send people to Pakistan. In this way, Sir, names of thousands of displaced Muslims did not

find place on the Census register. Muslims of this district who had left for place such as Jaipur, Tonks Delhi, Bhopal and parts of U. P. were not enumerated at all. Unfortunately, the case of the displaced Muslims was dealt with by a Madras I. C. S. officer who was under the impression that Meos were the only people who inhabited Mewat. As a result of this wrong impression, other Muslims such as Faqirs, Sayyids, Mughals, Pathan, Khanzade etc. were ignored and orders were passed for the enumeration of Meos only. The result is that the question of rehabilitation of the Muslims other than Meos has not been taken up so far.

For some time before his martyrdom, Bapuji had taken personal interest in the rehabilitation of Muslims in Gurgaon. After his martyrdom for two months nothing was done until Acharya Vinoba Bhave came to Delhi. We insisted on seeing him though some people tried to prevent us. I must say that he gave us a sympathetic hearing and later on tried his best to help us. In the meeting of the joint rehabilitation Board held on 20th March 1949, where the representatives of the Punjab Government were present, it was unanimously decided that the displaced Muslims of East Punjab and Pepsu should be restored their houses and lands after Rabi, 1949. That decision is on record but I have to point out with great regret that it has not been fully implemented even p till this time. It appears that in Gurgaon district, the Government feels committed to resettle only those displaced Muslims whose names are in the Census register. This is resulting in a great hardship for many others. In some cases, in the records the land is in the name of the father who is dead since long. His sons have been duly included in the Census but their ancestral land is not being restored to them on the ground that probably their fathers have migrated to Pakistan and have got land allotted themselves there.

Towards the end of his speech in reply to the general discussion of the Budget, the Finance Minister was pleased to remark that all the applications received from the Meos for restoration of their lands have been disposed of. My submission to the Government is that if it is within its knowledge, and how it can be ignorant of the fact, that there is still a very large number of displaced and homeless Muslims in District Gurgaon to whom their pr^operty has

[Chaudhri Mohd Yasin Khan]

not been restored, how can it say that the work of resettlement of Muslims is complete? How can it ignore these uprooted Muslims who are there to be seen and counted by any body? If it doubts their being displaced Muslims of India and thinks that they have come back from Pakistan after the introduction of the permit system, they should be arrested, tried and punished according to the law of the land. But when it is fact that these people have been all the time living there and are still in a homeless state, why should they be denied their rights as citizens of India? If as the Government says 85 per cent of the Meos have been resettled, how does that help the remaining 15 per cent? This was the question that we had put to F. C. R. when he paid a visit to Nuh on 8th February, 1950. My submission is that if due to certain difficulties and handicaps, our Government is unable to undertake the resettlement of these remaining displaced Muslims, it should refer that matter immediately to the Government of India. Already the matter has been very much delayed. Either the Government should prove that their presence here is illegal or their houses and lands of which they have been deprived under some special policy should be restored to them.

There is another difficulty in this connection and that is with regard to the fact that in Muslim families if father is here his son is away to Pakistan or if husband is here his wife is in Pakistan. I would, therefore, request that our State Government should urge the Government of India to extend facilities to such members of the Muslim families to return to India by issuing permits so that the members of divided families may be able to live together and their anxiety of separation may be over.

Sardar Achhar Singh : (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) Sir, I would like to make a few observations with regard to the faulty and unsatisfactory way in which the problem of rehabilitation of the displaced persons has been attempted by the Government. I may submit that out of every fifteen persons in the State there is one displaced person and thus this class is numerically very large. The Government's efforts to solve this manifold problem have been far from satisfactory. I would like to place before the House certain essential facts and data having close bearing upon the work done by the Government in this

behalf. Out of 1,69,277 persons who depend upon agriculture, 98,737 persons have been allotted land and about 71,000 persons are such to whom no allotment has been made so far. Then, Sir, out of 50,583 persons who were in service, only 41,000 persons have so far been absorbed. Out of 1,18,000 businessmen, only 70,269 have so far been rehabilitated and there are 1,18,526 able-bodied persons who have not so far been absorbed in the economy of the State. Besides, there are thousands of people who every day complain that they have not been allotted land. When they are asked to go to the Ministers with their grievances, they plead their helplessness and say that their voice is not heard in higher quarters.

Then, Sir, graded cuts have been applied in the distribution of land so much so that 90 per cent cut has been applied to the land claims of big zamindars. Many small cultivators have been allotted land in the Memdot Estate in Ferozepore district against their will while tenants of long standing have been ejected from that land. On the other hand, zamindars owning 500 acres of land have been displaced and allotted land in Karnal. There was a great agitation over it but the police cudgelled them into acceptance of that land and even resorted to firing to crush these people. Small cultivators who owned only 5 or 10 acres of land have been allotted land in the Bet *ilaga*. The Government has uprooted many small landholders and they are in great distress. The hon. Minister of Development had remarked the other day that we should give concrete instances. So I would quote a few instances in this connection. In village Manjh quasi-permanent allotment of land of grade 'C' was made to 26 persons who were in fact entitled to 'A' grade land. The Commissioner, Ambala Division, cancelled the allotment order on the ground that these people will be given land of 'A' grade in Ferozepore district to which they were entitled. Those people have not so far been allotted any land and say that it would have been better even if land of 'C' grade had been allotted to them. They are in great distress and do not even know when they will be allotted land.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan-Singh Bajwa was allotted land at village Nangal Beghbana where allotment of land had already been made to sixteen persons. At that time Bhargava Cabinet had managed to get these persons evicted from their land. Being aggrieved these sitting allottees then preferred an appeal to the

[Sardar Achhar Singh]

Financial Commissioner during the Governor's regime who passed order on the 11th April, 1952, to the effect that the land in question be restored to them. Now my hon. Friend has been taken in the Cabinet and I am afraid that they might again be uprooted. Then, Sir, one Harbans Lal Ex-Subedar is on hunger strike because land of inferior quality has been allotted to him and the Government is demanding an amount equal to six times the land revenue and also the refund of taccavi loans. He has been on hunger strike since 12th June, 1952.

Then, I would draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister to the 'steel scandal' cases. The report on such cases was made by the former Chief Minister-Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava on 8th January, 1951. Now that Shri Bhim Sen Sachar is himself the Chief Minister I hope he will definitely order an inquiry into such cases.

Then, Sir, real brothers have been allotted land at different places which has caused great dissatisfaction among the people. I would, in the end, request the hon. Minister in-charge to look into these matters.

Shri Ram Sarup (Butana) (Hindi) : Sir, I would like to make a few observations with regard to the Rehabilitation Department. There is no denying the fact that this department has done commendable work in rehabilitating millions of displaced persons who were the victims of partition. But there have been some shortcomings which were but natural in handling a task of such a great magnitude. The previous Government had first to face this issue when it was called upon to undertake the gigantic task of rehabilitating the displaced persons. At that time, every man had his own grievances and wanted to be resettled anew in East Punjab to his satisfaction. Though the work has not been accomplished to everybody's satisfaction yet for the partial relief that has been afforded by it the Government deserves credit and the admiration of us all. At the same time, I must say that thousands of displaced cultivators in spite of their hue and cry have not yet got a fair and just distribution of land at a place of their own choice. I know that some of the officers of the Government did not conduct themselves well and used their authority for their personal ends rather than selfless service. Their activities were confined to satisfying the various demands of their own relatives and

friends but all the same barring a few officers all of them did their utmost to serve the suffering humanity.

Sir, there is another important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Minister incharge of the Rehabilitation Department. After the allotment of the lands of the Muslim landlords to Hindu and Sikh displaced persons, the tenants who were cultivating those lands have been ejected. This has resulted in a great hardship to them because they have been thrown out of work and have no other source of earning their livelihood. The condition of Muslims of Karnal district who during the days of disturbances had crossed the river Jamuna and left for other parts of the country is also very miserable. The Government has done nothing to resettle these displaced Muslims and they have been reduced to utter destitution. One often comes across Muslim women with their children begging in the streets.

Another defect in the rehabilitation policy of the Government is that the minors whose parents were killed in Pakistan have not been allotted land at the same places as their uncles and other collaterals. It would have been better if they had been settled along with their relations so that the latter could have looked after them. Corruption is still prevalent in the Rehabilitation Department and if the hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh who is already well-known for his ability and integrity roots out corruption from this department I think he will be adding a new feather to his cap.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (Punjabi): Sir, though all the departments of this so-called popular Government are notorious for corruption, this department namely, Rehabilitation, has surpassed them all in this evil. Millions of poor refugees had to leave their hearths and homes in West Punjab not due to any fault of their own, but thanks to the agreement made by the Congress with the British Government. It is these people who had to pay a very heavy price for the independence of the whole country. They had hoped that when they would cross the Wagha border they would be greeted and welcomed by Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel and the great sacrifices that they had made would be duly appreciated by them. But, alas, when they set foot on the Indian soil, all their hopes

[Sardar Wazir Singh]

and desires crashed. The movable property of the Muslim evacuees was looted by the Government officials and the local people and nothing was left for these poor refugees who had lost all their household effects in West Punjab. When it came to the question of allotting the evacuee land, no clear cut policy was laid down. Every Minister and officer who was entrusted with this work brought forth different schemes. The result was confusion worse confounded. The work of allotment of land was carried on in such a dishonest manner that the people who had some relatives working in the Rehabilitation Department managed to get the land allotted to them to which they were not entitled. For instance, people who owned 'A' Class land in West Punjab were allotted 'C' Class land and those who owned very inferior kind of land were allotted land of the best grade here in East Punjab. That is not all. All sorts of irregularities were committed in the matter of allotment of land. Unscrupulous people who could flatter the officials or bribe them or influence them in some way or the other managed to get good land allotted to them while the deserving people were allotted unproductive and barren land. I would very strongly urge, Sir, that with a view to satisfying people in regard to this complaint, Government should institute an inquiry to ascertain whether the allotment of land in every district has been made strictly in accordance with the rules or not. It should also be inquired into as to whether the displaced persons related to all the officials connected with the Rehabilitation Department including the Minister for Rehabilitation have been allotted the land to which they were entitled under the rules or have been favoured in any manner in this matter. And if any irregularity is found, the officials responsible for that should be brought to book. Then, Sir, people who owned large areas of land in West Punjab had to put up with cuts up to 95% in some cases. I do not think there was any valid excuse for applying these cuts when the Nazul lands in this State as well as in other States could have been easily allotted to these people in lieu of the land left by them in Pakistan. Moreover, the land that has been allotted to them is still in the possession of the tenants and these people are being hard put to it to get its possession. They are so much sick of these tenants that they want to end their own lives.

Though our Government has not learnt anything good from the British Government, it has adopted one of their pernicious practices, namely, 'divide and rule'. Like the British Government, it has tried to create dissensions, divisions and splits in the people of this State by setting the Harijans and the tenants against the Zamindars. This policy has resulted in alienating the Harijans from the Zamindars and embittering the relations of the landlords and the tenants. Even during the election campaign the hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Treasury Benches had promised to rid the Harijans of the clutches of the Zamindars. May I ask them how they propose to separate the Zamindars and the Harijans whose interests are common and interlinked? If a Zamindar cannot do without a Harijan, a Harijan cannot also do without the Zamindar.

Sir, I beg to submit that at the time of the allotment of land, it was announced by the Government that the allotment will be completed very early so as not to delay the sowing operations and put the allottees to loss. On the completion of this work, it was found that an injustice had been done to most of the people. The result was that the poor aggrieved refugees had to file revision petitions and lakhs of rupees in the form of petition fees have been wasted. The poor refugees were forced to undergo this expenditure for no fault of their own.

An interesting thing that I want to point out to the hon. Members of this House is that these revision petitions had to be filed in the courts of the same Revenue Officers and the same Deputy Commissioners who were responsible for doing an injustice to them. Sir, it is very rarely that an officer responsible for any wrong decision on appeal redresses the grievances of the aggrieved party. So, the result was that most of these petitions were dismissed by these officers and lakhs of rupees of the poor refugees were wasted,

Then, Sir, very few of them could afford to file appeals in the courts of the Director General, Rehabilitation, and the Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation, against the decisions of these courts. And those who went in for appeals had to carry on regular litigations for getting those decisions annulled. I, therefore, want to impress upon the House the fact that justice has not been meted out to these refugees.

[Sardar Wazir Singh] —

Further, these refugees were asked by the Government to file claims in respect of their urban immovable property left in Pakistan. These claims have been certified after getting proof from the claimants in support of their claims and now they have also been allowed to adjust the loans taken by them against ten percent of sums for which their claims have been admitted. But we find that the Government has not given a similar concession to the rural refugees. It is recovering taccavi loans from them under compulsion. I, therefore, request the Government to extend a similar concession to them also.

Another matter of importance towards which I want to draw the attention of this House is that our Government is now going to uproot once again the refugee transport operators by nationalizing the motor transport industry in the State. A large number of these refugees were engaged in this industry in West Punjab and were, therefore, allotted permits in respect of those routes only on which the Muslims used to ply buses before the partition. It is after putting in great labour that they have been able to make these newly started transport companies a success. They have invested large sums of money in these motor transport companies. Then, Sir, out of the total number of 52 transport companies, 51 are being operated by the refugees. Under these circumstances, nationalization of road transport would tantamount to uprooting those refugees again who by self-help and hard labour have at last succeeded in rehabilitating themselves. I would, therefore, request the House not to allow the Government to take such a drastic step.

Sir, I am not against the principle involved in nationalization. What I want to urge is that the Government should nationalize those industries first which can bring a large revenue to the State coffers. It should first nationalize insurance companies, big factories and the mills. In the end, Sir, again I request the Government to give up its scheme of nationalization of road transport because it will injure the interests of refugee transport operators.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (Punjabi): Through you, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to two or three matters. The first is that while the Government has postponed the recovery of the loans given by it to the urban people, it is recovering the taccavi loans given to the rural refugees.

This discrimination between the urban and the rural refugees is most deplorable. The Government has perhaps given this concession to the urbanites because they are capable of carrying on propaganda against the Government. It is a fact, Sir, that no body cares for the poor rural population. I, request the Government to remove this grievance of the ruralites. They are not earning enough to be able to pay back these loans.

Another matter which I want to point out to the Government is that the Harijans have been allotted inferior land as against the superior land left by them in Pakistan. Though the Harijans did not own much land in Pakistan, it was of 'A' grade. Here, they have been allotted 'C' grade land. No body has cared to look into their complaints. I, therefore, request the Government to look into their cases and redress their grievances.

Then, Sir, after the partition, many Harijan refugees occupied the houses left by the Muslims, like the refugee zamindars. The zamindars took out the timber used in the houses taken possession of by them and sold it. It is an open secret that almost every refugee zamindar shifted from one evacuee house to the other after dismantling the first and selling away its wooden rafters, doors and windows and then repeated the same process many times. The poor Harijans on the other hand kept the houses occupied by them in a good condition. The zamindars, tried to get those houses allotted in their favour by ousting the Harijans on the plea that they were landless. When this matter was brought to the notice of the late Dr. Lehna Singh who was then the Minister incharge of Rehabilitation, he passed orders that landless refugees should be allotted the houses left by the landless Muslims who had migrated to Pakistan. In spite of those orders, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the allotment of most of the houses which are at present occupied by the Harijan refugees has not been made in favour of the occupants upto this time. In this connection, I regret to bring to the notice of the Government that in Adampur in Jullundur District the Harijan refugees are being served with notices to vacate these houses because the allotment does not stand in their names. Sir, this is the state of affairs there. I request the Government to give its pointed attention to their case and see that injustice is not done to them in this matter.

[Sardar Gurbanta Singh]

Sir, the Government has, no doubt, endeavoured a great deal to rehabilitate the displaced industries in the Punjab, spent a lot of money in the form of loans and subsidies and has allotted land at many places for this purpose, but a grave injustice has been done to the Harijans. It is more than two years ago that with a view to reviving the leather industry in the State, several Harijans joined hands and procured 110 plots of land in the suburbs of Jullundur. For this purpose, a security equal to 10% of the total value of land was also deposited by them with the Government but, Sir, after the expiry of a few months it so happened that 8 marla Houses were constructed by the Government on these very plots and the allotments previously made were cancelled. Was it not a step-motherly treatment towards the poor and helpless people who were up-rooted from their hearths and homes by the fateful partition? It is a matter of deep regret that those who wished to re-establish their business by self-help were not given a single piece of land. Sir, even the money deposited as advance has not so far been refunded. Many a time, the Government was approached in the matter but with no result. Mr. Speaker, large tracts of un-allotted land are still lying in the vicinity of Jullundur to which the attention of the Minister for Rehabilitation was drawn time and again but nothing material came out. The policy of the Government aims at growing more and more of food but I wonder why such tracts of land are still lying uncultivated. I, therefore, take this opportunity to stress upon the Government the necessity of allotting this land to the Harijans and the landless tenants so that it may be brought under the plough.

Then, Sir, the people who were given land on lease for cultivation have again been ousted. Many times, it was represented to the Government that the present occupants of such land should be allowed to continue with its cultivation and that when it would be allotted permanently to some landlord, the terms would be settled with him and the requisite 'abiana' paid, by the former but no attention was paid to all these cries with the result that the tenants are now idle and without any shelter. Sir, it would be in the fitness of things if the Government came to their rescue, reconsidered its decision and issued instructions for the allotment of these lands to the landless and the Harijan tenants.

Again, Sir, in order to rehabilitate the refugee Zamindars huge sums of money have been given to them in the form of taccavi loans but the refugee Harijans have totally been ignored even in this respect. Sir, I can say without any fear of contradiction that not even a fraction of the total number of displaced Harijans has been rehabilitated in this State. If at all 'taccavi' loans are sanctioned for them, the Patwaris compel them to offer them (the Patwaris) illegal gratification by threatening them that otherwise no 'taccavi' would be paid to them. The result is that the poor people have to submit to this unfair demand. Sir, this is a very deplorable state of affairs and the Government should check this malpractice with a strong hand and afford full protection to the Harijans who are being unduly suppressed.

Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that had the Harijans not supported the Congress candidates during the last general elections, tables would have been altogether turned and to-day some other party, not the Congress, would have got the privilege of adorning the Treasury Benches of this august House. In the end, I would submit that the Government cannot afford to neglect the interests of the Harijans and so it should provide every possible help and facility to them for their rehabilitation.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Puniabi*): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that huge sums of money are provided every year in the Budget for purposes of Rehabilitation, it is a matter of deep regret that this money is not utilised properly with the result that the problem still remains unsolved. Sir, when I tour the villages situated in my constituency, people from every nook and corner of the area come to me and complain that no houses have been allotted to them, nor are the 'taccavis' being distributed properly. Even if somebody managed to get the possession of a house he was forcibly turned out of it and the possession was taken over by some influential landlord. Sir, I am aware of many cases in which Mazhabi Sikhs of village Gheebe were ousted from the evacuee houses occupied by them. The masses at large are of the opinion that the Government is not paying any attention to the plight of the poor.

Sir, I take this opportunity to point out to the Government the kind of treatment being meted out to the representatives of the people who go to the officers to bring to their notice the grievances of the masses. It was on the 11th June that at about 1.45 P. M. I

[Sardar Khem Singh]

happened to go to the Director General, Rehabilitation Jullundur. I sent my visiting card to him but I was made to understand that he was busy at that time. I was not attended to for hours together. Every time I sent in a note, I was put off on one pretext or the other. I know that actually he had got no work but was sleeping over his table. When at last I got weary of waiting, I sent in a letter at about 4.30 whereupon I was called in and was surprised to note the extent of discourteous attitude exhibited by him while enquiring the cause of my visit. I respectfully told him that I would let him know the matter in detail but I am sorry to inform the House that without listening to me, he in a rude way told me that he knew every detail etc. and then very boldly passed the blame for every act of omission and commission on to the Jats of the village. Sir, I complained to him that the Patwaris were committing many acts of high-handedness and that forcible ejections were being made but he did not pay any heed to these grievances and directed me to approach the Tehsildar, incharge of the area. When I told him that the Tehsildar was also under his control, he felt indignant. Sir, I am constrained to remark that the officers at the helm of affairs are hand in glove with the big landlords and have scant regard for the hardships and miseries of the poor, being biased they cannot do their work and perform their duties honestly. I, therefore, see no justification for retaining such an arrogant officer in service. He is not fit for the post of a Tehsildar or even a Patwari.

Minister for Finance : Is it fair on the part of the hon. Member to make such remarks against the officers ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should please make no reflection on the conduct of any officer. He should confine his remarks to the demand under consideration.

Sardar Khem Singh : Sir, what I wish to submit to the Minister for Finance is that being a refugee himself, he ought to realise the extent of the miseries and tribulations of the poor and pay his full attention towards removing them.

Sir, after the fateful partition of our State these people had to undergo a series of misfortunes. They left their hearths and homes for the sake of their brethren in other parts of the country. Today if

the taccavis are given, the money goes into the pockets of the landlords and not to those of the Harijans and the poor peasants who have lost everything in Pakistan. I, therefore, think that this Government hardly represents the poor. It is there to protect the interests of the millionaires. So far as the betterment of the poor is concerned, only paper schemes are made out of which nothing practical comes. Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of deep regret that when taccavi loans are given to the Harijans and the peasants the Patwaris do not hesitate to coerce them to share a part of the amount of the loan with them on the pain of withholding the whole amount. Willy-nilly, the poor people have to yield to the unfair demands of the Patwaris. Sir, there is no denying the fact that whenever any complaint regarding such mal-practice is filed with the Tehsildar, against a Patwari no notice is ever taken of it. Therefore, under the circumstances explained, I appeal to the Minister for Finance that with a view to making the Grow More Food Campaign a success, the backward classes like the Harijans, the Kabir Panthis, the Mazhabis, Sikhs and the tenants should not be allowed to be evicted from their lands and their rights be protected so that they may be able to put their heart and soul in the work of cultivation and increase the food production of our State.

Principal Iqbal Singh (Jagraon) (Punjabi) : Mr. Speaker. I am obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this demand. I shall restrict my speech to a few points only.

Sir, the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches are known for their sympathy for the displaced persons but one is amazed to observe that the temporary allotment of land made in favour of these displaced persons was revised by the Government not once or twice but four times with the result that the refugee persons being uncertain of the final decision could not sow anything in their fields. I would request the Minister incharge, through you, Sir, to look into the cases pertaining to allotment of evacuee land at Raikot.

Secondly, I have to say something about the nationalization of road transport. In this connection, I may read a few lines from the Debates to show what the previous Assembly had decided :

The Punjab Legislative Assembly however, by a resolution passed in 1950, recommended postponement of the nationalization of road transport except for a few routes.

[Principal Iqbal Singh]

Contrary to the spirit of this Resolution, our Government, is taking up new routes for plying its own buses every now and then. Justice demands that the decision already arrived at should be allowed to hold good at least for a period of three years, if not longer. Thereafter, the question of new routes may be taken up by a Committee consisting of, besides others, the representatives of the Transport Department so that a *via media* may be found and a decision arrived at on merits. This is an important suggestion as the displaced persons are looking forward to the Government for justice.

Thirdly, I have to submit regarding the working of the Village Panchayats, some of which are functioning officially and others unofficially. Frankly speaking these non-official Panchayats have come into being because of the unsatisfactory working of the official panchayats. The latter are always required to observe certain formalities irrespective of the nature and importance of the case before them. I can cite several instances in support of my statement. At several places the official panchayats have constructed pucca drains in villages but they are not regularly cleaned and are generally choked up. Nobody there is prepared to attend to this work. What does this neglect of duty lead to? It results in the further multiplication of mosquitoes, which are already found in abundance in the village ponds. The storage of dirty water in the drains and ponds has adversely affected the health of even the most healthy cattle which drink that water. The village folk are often heard murmuring that the money spent by them upon the purchase of the cattle has gone waste owing to the mis-management of the Panchayats. Sir, my submission is that the Government should give their full attention to this matter so that these Panchayats may become more popular and useful.

Next I come to the imparting of education in the villages. Education in rural areas is at present the primary duty of the District Board but experience has shown that the District Boards cannot give proper attention to each village in this respect. This work if entrusted to the local persons can yield better results. There is a Social Education Centre in Village Rerka. The educational work done by this Centre is so commendable that the Centre found a conspicuous place in the report read by the Inspector of Schools in the Divisional Educational Conference. This Centre is being run by a teacher named

Shri Amar Singh, who has been to Malaya. It is due to his sincere efforts and good manners that the Centre has got an enrolment of about 50 girls and 30 boys. Sir, inspite of the fact that such a useful Centre is being run there by the people in a spirit of cooperation, our Government has not tried to benefit thereby. It is still following its old policy and this will be evident from the incident to which I am going to refer just now.

Sir, in this village the peasants were given taccavi loans but as their houses had collapsed, they could not attend to the sowing of crops. In the preceding year too, their crops had failed. The failure of crops for two successive years has rendered them penniless and they are unable to pay the land revenue amounting to Rs. 5,655/-. Punitive Police has, therefore, been posted by the Government in that village. It would cost the village Rs. 17,044/-. Mr. Speaker now the question arises as to why the Government should take such a drastic action when the villagers are prepared to work in spirit of co-operation. I have, on my part given an undertaking to the effect that I would be the first person to go to Jail and suffer the consequences if any disturbance took place after the removal of the punitive police. Is it fair, Sir, that a village which has failed to pay Rs. 5,655/- on account of land revenue should be asked to bear this additional burden of the order of Rs. 17,044/- ? Does it not amount to bringing a bad name to the local Social Education Centre which excels all such Centres functioning in Ludhiana district? I would therefore request the Government that this police post should be immediately removed therefrom.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker in connection with this Demand for grant, I would like to express my views as follows :

The dislocation caused, the loss sustained and the wholesale massacre witnessed at the time of the partition of the country were quite unprecedented in the history of the world. No Government on earth could have done better than what was done by our Government to accommodate the displaced persons and to help them stand on their legs. Every one in this country realises that if the Hindus and the Sikhs of West Punjab had to leave thier hearths and homes, it was not due to any fault on the part of our Government. This fact is supported by an event which took place at Rawalpindi.

[Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar]

Some of our brethren who had stayed behind held a Conference at Rawalpindi and gave the authorities a very sincere assurance to the effect that they would ever remain loyal to the Pakistan Government. In spite of such an assurance, they were not trusted and were ultimately made to leave that land. This was the state of affairs when our Government was obliged to take charge of the displaced persons. The area of the land left by us in Pakistan was more than that left here by the Muslim evacuees but our Government with a view to doing justice to all the refugee landowners and also to rehabilitating them has considered it fit to introduce the system of the graded cuts. I can say with full confidence that no better system could be devised for the distribution of the evacuee land.

I am proud to observe that our Government has been giving preference to the displaced persons in every sphere of life so much so that all the Chief Ministers of various cabinets in our State since the partition have been displaced persons.

I also want to submit that in the present Cabinet there is a majority of those who have come from West Punjab. One head of the Rehabilitation Department i. e., the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, also belongs to West Punjab and very few persons of this side are holding higher post in this department. The Director General also belongs to West Punjab. My humble submission is that the Government should also give a fair chance to the people of this side to show their worth.

No doubt, the Government has made sincere efforts to rehabilitate the uprooted and displaced persons but still it has not been able to satisfy them. This is due to the fact that the Government has very slender resources at their disposal and the area of land in respect of which claims have been filed by the displaced persons far exceeds the area of land left here by the Muslim evacuees.

In this connection, I want to make a few suggestions for the careful consideration of the Rehabilitation Minister. The first is regarding the allotment of evacuee land. Claimants of 'A' grade land form the majority whereas the available area of 'A' grade land is very small and a good part of it is mortgaged property. The Government should try to redeem this land and allot it to the

displaced persons at the earliest. In spite of the fact that our Government has been busy with this rehabilitation work for the last five years, we even now come across refugees who have not been allotted any land so far. The Muslim evacuees have left a very small area of land in Amritsar District which is totally insufficient to meet the claims of the refugees who have been settled there. I, therefore, suggest that the Government should get the mortgaged lands redeemed and instead of removing it from the general pool of evacuee property it should be allotted to these refugees who had to bear the brunt of the partition.

Then, Sir, the land claims of refugees from Bhawalpur and Sind have not been verified so far. These destitutes are prepared to go to Pakistan in connection with the verification of their claims if the Government arranges for their permits. The Government should come to their rescue.

Another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is the reduction made in the staff of the Rehabilitation Department. This is badly impairing the efficiency of the Department. In Amritsar District, the post of the Revenue Assistant has been abolished and the work has been handed over to an ordinary Revenue Officer. This Revenue Officer has to attend to rehabilitation and consolidation work in addition to his own duties. So it is natural that the work is suffering.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (Hindi) : Sir, the rehabilitation issue is such that it should not be discussed in a partisan spirit. It requires the careful and concentrated attention of our Government. Refugees are overwhelmed by misery and distress. The spectre of disappointment is looming large before their eyes. Their vacant looks add to the poignancy of their grief. But the Government has yet a long way to go in applying the healing balm to the lacerated hearts of these destitute who are being styled as 'refugees' (*Sharnarthis*). As a matter of fact, they are the real martyrs and heroes who have suffered for India's independence. These people were deluded and kept quite in the dark about the calamity that was ahead. At first they were told that there would be no Pakistan. They were assured by the leaders of the Congress party that they would not in any case agree to the demand for partition. After that the Government gave them false assurances about the

[Shri Sri Chand]

protection of their life and property and advised them to continue to stick to their original homes. In the end, when these poor destitutes were forced to leave their hearths and homes in a very miserable condition, the Government utterly failed to provide them shelter. All these things prove that this Government is in the habit of indulging in tall talk. The fact of the matter is that even a fringe of the problem of rehabilitation has not been touched.

All the good houses in the urban area are in the possession of either the big officers or the M. L. A's who wield influence in the higher quarters. But the houses which are in a very dilapidated condition and as a matter of fact are not fit for human habitation have been allotted to the displaced persons. Moreover refugees have not been given proprietary rights over that property. If a house is allotted to a person without investing him with proprietary rights, that house is sure to turn into a hovel within a couple of years because nobody will attend to its repairs etc. So it is my firm conviction that if the Government carried on its work at a snail's speed as at present, not a single evacuee house would be left. Further, how strange it is that neither can the refugees get the rent of their property left in Pakistan nor have they been exempted from payment of the rent of the evacuee houses they are occupying here. When the refugees show the slightest resentment and refuse to pay the rent on the above-mentioned ground, they are forcibly ejected from these houses. There is no security for them. If today they are allotted a house, the very next day they will be asked to vacate it to accommodate the privileged people. Such is the plight of these hopeless people. I can quote a thousand and one such instances. I know that certain M. L. A's who belong to East Punjab are in possession of evacuee property and no body is taking any note of that fact simply because they wield influence with the authorities.

Sir, I was submitting that the condition of the poor refugees is extremely pitiable. But our Government instead of providing some relief to them is trying to add to their worries and troubles. They have been reduced to abject straits by the partition of the country but our Government is imposing cuts on their claims in respect of agricultural land and is building houses for them which

cannot stand even the vibration caused by a peal of laughter and collapse at the first onslaught of rains and winds. How can the displaced persons live in such unsafe houses? The material used in their construction is so bad that they won't last for more than two or three years.

Another matter in this connection is that the officers of the Government do not care to look into the cases of hardship brought to their notice. For instance, village Chandaury of Jhajjar Tehsil which was inhabited by Muslims who left it during the riots was allotted to the displaced persons from West Punjab. The residents of this village have all the time been living in India but they have not been allowed to occupy their houses and lands so far. Whenever any one goes to the district officers with any such complaint, they turn a deaf ear to him and ask him as to why he feels so much interested. If at all they reply, they say that since Mr. Kapoor who was the A. D. M. at the time of such allotment made those allotments, it was not possible for them to change them at this stage. These are lame excuses. As a matter of fact, nobody pays any heed to these poor people.

Then, Sir, it is often said that some financial help should be given to the political sufferers. Are there any worse political sufferers than these poor displaced persons? Their daughters and wives are still rotting in Pakistan; they themselves and their children who should be studying in the schools — are selling parched grams and groundnuts in the dirty bazars of our cities and are pulling rickshaws in Delhi! Are they not political sufferers? Is a person who went to jail for one month in some Congress movement a better hero in the cause of independence? In my opinion, help should first be given to these refugees who have suffered more and who are still suffering because they have not been properly rehabilitated. The money that the Government has spent on their rehabilitation has mostly been eaten up by the big contractors, overseers and engineers who used worthless material on the construction of the houses for them. Today, we don't find any beautiful cities like Rawalpindi and Lahore in our State. This is most regrettable. Even the work at Chandigarh has not proceeded with the speed which the urgency of the situation required. In the first place, the decision regarding the site for the new capital

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was taken after a long time when the well-to-do persons had already gone to other big cities of India. Now who will come back to buy plots and raise buildings at this site ?

Sir, the ways of our Government are quite odd. It has been remarked that it is not the legal responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate these people. In support of this, it has been stated that there is no instance in history of a Government being compelled to accept such a responsibility. May I submit, Sir, that there is also no parallel in history of such mass scale destructions and uprooting. It was the Congress who decided upon the partition of the country. Were the people of Punjab ever consulted? So, why should we not hold the Government of India and the people of India responsible for the misery that befell our State? Are not the persons who now occupy the Ministerial Benches responsible for our losses and sufferings? If they feel that the partition of India was agreed to for achieving the independence of the country as a whole, they must compensate the displaced persons for their losses and sufferings.

In my opinion, the real fault is that of our own Government. It does not press upon the Government of India the claims of our distressed people as strongly as it should. It is following a weak-kneed policy because the Ministers of our State are always made by the people sitting in Delhi. They are not the representatives of the hon. Members in the real sense of the word. How can such Ministers who are proteges of people living in Delhi act in a strong manner? There was a time when Delhi was under the Government of Punjab. But now U. P. people dominate the State of Delhi and control its destiny. That is why we cannot assert at the Centre. Our Cabinet is not strong enough to press its view-point otherwise our State which has to spend a lot on the policing of the border area would not have failed to set some grant for this purpose especially when the Kashmiris are having crores of rupees from the Government of India for their defence.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (Punjabi): Sir, the subject on which I wish to give expression to my views is an important one. Although I am not a master of this subject, yet my duty towards my

constituency which has a double refugee problem compels me to place my views before this august House. The people of my *illaga* are backward and they are unable to make their voice heard. The applications and representations that they address to the Government remain lying with the officers for considerably long periods without any action being taken upon them. Sir, on the fourth of this month, you were pleased to remark that every member who rises to speak considers himself a specialist on the subject on which he dwells. In my opinion, whenever a member speaks, he does so with a view to make the views and feelings of his constituency felt by the Government. That is the main object of the speeches delivered on the floor of this House. It is the duty of every hon. Member to put the grievances of the people of his constituency before this House and the Government.

As regards the story of those who live in the constituency from which I have been returned, I can only say that the less said the better. Shri Mohd Yasin Khan has already stated in his speech that our *illaga* has no canals for irrigation and that the advantages from Bhakra and the Community Projects will not be extended to Nuh and the surrounding areas. I would request the Government to think out other plans for the uplift of this backward area where two types of displaced persons are living side by side. On the one hand are refugees from Pakistan and on the other the displaced Meos who had to leave their hearths and homes during the riots. Both these types of displaced persons deserve aid and assistance from the Government.

The last crop was spoiled by the hail storm and there is a scarcity of fodder in the area. Cows and buffalos are starving. I think my voice will reach the ears of the Government through you, Sir, and will have some effect with the result that it will at least sanction tube wells in large numbers for this area for the benefit of the displaced persons of both the categories. This will give me pleasure. I do hope that the Government will follow a policy of aid and assistance to this backward area.

Then Sir, seeds are not available in this area and I am afraid that if no arrangement is made for providing these, there will be no produce from lands which can yield lakhs of maunds of food-grains, I shall request the hon. Minister-in-Charge to attend to this urgent need of the people. People who live in this area are very

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simple. They do not know how to do propaganda. A police constable can extort thousands of rupees from them. During the last summer, I had an opportunity of visiting these people in the company of Acharya Vinobha Bhave. We found a family squatting in the open in scorching heat with a dead child lying before them. When we enquired from them as to why they were there, we were told that they had the satisfaction of sitting in front of their homes, though they could not enter them. It was very difficult for us to bear that sad sight.

The policy of the party which was responsible for the partition of the country was based on hatred and violence. As the policy of our Government is quite different from that, I shall request the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation to remove the difficulties of the poor people of my constituency. Immediate arrangements should be made for providing seeds and taccavi loans to them, so that they may help increase the production of foodgrains, which is one of the most important problems facing the country today. Another matter which I want to point out is that there is no industry in my constituency. If the Government provides necessary facilities to the villagers for taking to rope making etc., they will be considerably benefited.

Then, Sir, a large number of the displaced teachers, policemen and patwaris are still without employment. Those of them who have got jobs have not been given the benefit of their previous service. The same is the case in regard to their Provident Fund accounts. If these conditions are allowed to continue, I am afraid the consequences will be highly undesirable.

With the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, the Sainis and some other tribes will no longer be regarded as criminal tribes but if the existing state of affairs does not improve, very respectable people among the displaced persons and the Meos will be compelled to commit crimes. Before the partition the Meos use to bring wood from the adjoining areas and earn their livelihood by making charcoal. They kept goats and cows but now the Forest Act has been applied to this area and the officers of the Forest Department impose heavy fines on the people for minor offences. They take bribes from the people and harass them unnecessarily.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan: On a point of information, Sir, The Sainis were never regarded as a criminal tribe.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: I am sorry. I should have said 'Sansis' and not 'Sainis.' I was submitting that if the *status quo* is maintained the condition will go from bad to worse. The Government has no doubt rehabilitated lakhs of displaced persons but my friend like Shri Mohd Yasin Khan and Shri Habib-ur-Rahman have not yet been restored the possession of their houses even five years after attainment of independence. I am not advocating the cause of any particular individual. Whether it is Dr. Saif-ud-din Kitchlew or some other person, everybody who is a citizen of this country should be given over the possession of his house.

In the end, I request the Government to provide water for irrigation by sinking tube-wells in my constituency. Thousands of acres of land in Karnal and other places are lying un-cultivated for want of water. If this facility is provided, the production of foodgrains in the State will be increased.

Sardar Partap Singh (Rupar) (Punjabi): Sir, all that happened in this country in 1947 is without parallel in the history of the world. The people who came from the other side of the Punjab, and who are known as 'refugees' did not get that amount of help and co-operation from the Government to which they were entitled. The displaced land-owners who came to this State after losing their all had to pay thousands of rupees for getting lands on lease. Many backward Communities like the Harijans depended on cultivation in West Punjab but they were not allotted any land in this State. They are workless and their condition is very miserable. In the matter of loans, the rich people got preference. The poor people like the Harijans received no help. If at all a loan was sanctioned for a Harijan he could not actually get more than half of it. In District Karnal, a colony has been developed for the Military pensioners. The same thing should have been done for the displaced Harijan tenants. If some land had been set apart for these people, it would have helped them in their rehabilitation. Gandhiji used to lay great emphasis on help being given to the Harijans and I would request the Government to give them lands so that they might be able to earn a living. At Rupar and other places, mortgaged evacuee lands have been allotted without making any payment to the

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non-Muslim mortgagees. The Government should get these mortgages redeemed by paying the mortgage money to the mortgagees before allotting these lands.

Then, Sir, the refugees who have had to shift from the land allotted to them in the first instance or even from that allotted to them the second time for certain reasons should be paid the lease money of those lands. The Government should not try to appropriate it to itself.

I would request the Minister for Finance to give his immediate attention to the question of the resettlement of the uprooted persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. I don't say that others should be dispossessed of their lands for this purpose but I would stress that the waste lands should be allotted to these poor landless people. By doing so the Government will be helping them to contribute their mite to the Grow More Food campaign and also providing the unemployed with work.

Then, we have a complaint against the manner in which the 'taccavi' loans have been distributed to zamindars in our Tehsil. All the multi-purpose societies that had been formed in Tehsil Rupar are not being accorded equal treatment in this matter. While the sociteies of the rich zamindars have been given loans of rupees 60 to 70 thousand, the poor, small zamindars are finding it difficult to get a loan of even Rs. 2 thousand. Only three societies of small zamindars and the Harijans have succeeded in getting small taccavi loans Applications of others are pending.

Then, Sir, a majority of the claims in respect of urban immovable property have been verified but such claimants living in Kurall and Rupar have not been so far given any house to live in. To cite specific cases, as desried by the Minister, i might name some of them—Waryam Singh, Hira Singh, Haria Singh, Maghi Singh, Bakhshi, Koda and so on — who owned pucca houses in West Punjab and whose claims have been verified.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Put my name also on this list.

Sardar Partap Singh : Sir, what I mean to say is that the refugees belonging to the Scheduled Castes have not been given

any houses or land in any part of the State. Our Minister, Chaudhri Sundar Singh, is undoubtedly a good and a pious man and tries his best to safeguard and promote the interests of the Scheduled Castes but it so appears that he is not being allowed much say in the affairs of the Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (Hindi): Sir, we shall be guilty of ingratitude if we don't thank the Government of India and the Punjab Government for whatever they have done for the evacuation and rehabilitation of Hindu and Sikh refugees brethren during the last five years. Today we find the spirit of self-complacency and 'all is right' prevailing in all quarters with regard to the rehabilitation of these uprooted people. This needs to be shaken off and it is precisely with this end in view that I have risen to speak. There cannot be a more wrong impression than that all the four to five million refugees who had to leave their hearths and homes in West Punjab have been properly rehabilitated. I admit that much has been done for their rehabilitation but as to how much, I would like to quote facts and figures in this connection.

Including the provision made in the current year's Budget, the total amount provided for the relief and rehabilitation of people from West Pakistan comes to Rs. 3299 lakhs. Now let us go a little deeper. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 1170 lakhs has been expended on relief measures i. e. evacuation and meeting the temporary requirements of the refugees. In this way, the money spent on actual rehabilitation comes to Rs. 2129 lakhs out of which capital expenditure accounts for 639 lakhs and loans which are recoverable for Rs. 910 lakhs. Leaving aside this expenditure of a capital nature and loans, it will be found, Sir, that the actual money spent on the rehabilitation of the refugees in the Punjab is no more than Rs. 580 lakhs. Out of this, the Government of India has provided Rs. 349 lakhs and this poor Government is responsible for providing Rs. 231 lakhs. Sir, these figures speak for themselves. Now if we feel ungrateful, the tongue will refuse to express it, for did not our Prime Minister Pandit Nehru give the problem of rescue and relief of refugees top-priority in their hour of distress? If we say that enough has been done for our rehabilitation, we would be deluding ourselves and closing our eyes to the facts.

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

The condition of a large number of displaced and uprooted people is even today very miserable and unfortunate. Cases of suicide among them are on the increase. Others are dying a slow, lingering but sure death owing to the worries they are unable to get rid of though outwardly for the sake of their honour they dare not utter a word about their problems and financial position. These were the people, Sir, who were respectable members of the middle class society in West Punjab, had their own houses and a decent income. Today, they are penniless and homeless. Unable to see their children crying for food, they are seeking solace from death by suicide. Such instances are not two or three but many. On 29th June, when I was at Rohtak, a refugee woman unable to see her hungry children crying for food committed suicide by allowing herself to be run over by a train at about 1 p. m. Only today I have read the news of a displaced person committing suicide in Shahabad being unable to feed his family.

Then, Sir, their hopes of getting some compensation for their urban property are also fast vanishing. In the beginning, it was given out that the pool of evacuee property was of the order of rupees three hundred to four hundred crores. Now we hear that it has shrunk to such an extent (though due to heat it should have expanded) that its value is at present to the tune of just rupees 75 to 80 crores, thanks to the executive interference of the administration and interpretation of the law relating to the evacuee property. The claims that have so far been verified and confirmed are of the value of Rs. 7,00 crores. This means that these poor people who have been anxiously looking forward to the grant of compensation for such a long time can lay no store by what they are going to get in lieu of their losses of property in urban areas. Through our Government, Sir, we want to impress upon the Government of India with all the emphasis at our command that a great injustice has been done to us by their allowing the evacuee property pool to be whittled down. While the poor refugees had somehow reconciled themselves to cuts, in some cases of 95 per cent, on their claims of agricultural lands; they might not be able to reconcile themselves to the poor, miserable compensation that is proposed to be given to them for their urban properties left in Pakistan.

We are also hearing that there is a proposal to put the mortgaged lands also in the common pool. If it is given effect to, I think it will be the unkindest cut of all, which the refugees concerned will not be able to bear.

I admit, Sir, that Shri Ajit Parshad Jain has a great sympathy with the displaced persons and keeps their interests nearest his heart. We have no grudge if he is paying more attention towards Bengali refugees but can't help pointing out that it is really regrettable that out of the provision of Rs. 35 crores made in the Central Budget this year for rehabilitation, only rupees 2.5 or 3 crores have been earmarked for the Punjab. This means that either he is not fully seized of the condition of the refugees in this State or our Government has been remiss in apprising him of the true state of affairs or it lacks the necessary pulling power. It is the duty of every one of us in this House to give the Government the necessary 'shake' to make it leave this attitude of complacency which it has adopted with regard to the rehabilitation of the refugees.

Sir, is it fair for 35 crores of people to enjoy the fruit of freedom at the cost of 25 or 30 lakhs of our Punjabi brethren? May I ask if it is not opposed to all canons of justice and fairplay that the sum of 700 crores of rupees originally earmarked for payment of compensation to the displaced persons should now be reduced to 75 crores of rupees? I would request the Government to urge upon the Government of India to revise the stand now taken up by it, otherwise it will be a sheer injustice to the displaced persons who are eagerly waiting to get an adequate quantum of compensation from the Government. Let the Government of India levy a liberty tax or a capital levy as it was done in similar circumstances in other countries and give full compensation to the homeless and destitute displaced persons who have sacrificed their all for the sake of the country's freedom. We claim it as a matter of right and not by way of charity.

Then, Sir, I find that claims in respect of 25,000 acres of land have not yet been satisfied. There are also many cultivators who have been allotted land in the Behtilaqa and instances are not wanting where the persons entitled to 1st grade land have been given land of the 4th grade. It has also been decided that the displaced zamindars will not get a share from the evacuee shamilat land on the basis of such

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

rights held by them in Pakistan. We have also been hearing for the last two years that the Government will spend three or four crores of rupees on the redemption of mortgaged lands and distribute it amongst the displaced landowners but this has not been done so far. Besides this, an area of 28,538 acres of land has been set apart for different departments like the Public Works, Forests and Jails. There are also many cases in which the displaced persons had chits of allotment with them but when they went to the Revenue Assistant for getting possession of the land allotted to them they were shown the ordinance promulgated by the Government by virtue of which the tenants could not be ejected from their land and on this ground the possession was refused to them. When tenants were asked to execute the *Qabuliat Nama* or to pay the customary land revenue, they refused to do so. The result is that these poor displaced persons, even though they have got the allotment chits with them, cannot get the possession of the land for no fault of theirs. I wonder what considerations influenced the Government to promulgate an Ordinance two days before the commencement of this session to the effect that tenants cannot be ejected from their land. Sir, previously, when such a legislative measure was passed, exemption was given to the displaced landowners. I would, therefore submit to the Minister-in-charge that it is a gross injustice to deprive the displaced landowners of the land who during these five years of trials and tribulations have been eagerly looking forward to their rehabilitation. There seems to be no valid ground for not asking the tenants to quit their land especially when they are not prepared to execute the *Qabuliatnama*. When this would come before the House for being converted into a regular legislation and placed on the Statute Book I would appeal to the hon. Members to give a fair deal to the displaced persons along with the tenants as they fall in the same category. Refugees' condition is no better than that of the tenants. If we do justice to one class we should not deny it to the other. Both of them should be given equal exemption under the law.

Then, Sir, I cannot but admire the scientific, economic formula the formula of standard acre evolved to arrive at an equitable, fair and just distribution of land on the basis of rights held by each landholder in West Punjab. But we cannot forget that still about 50,000 applications for allotment of land have to be disposed of. There is a rumour afloat, and I do not know how far it is correct, that the

Government of India have issued instructions that such applications should be kept pending without taking any decision on them. I would request the Government to decide these applications and complete the work of allotment even though it may take a month or so in deciding these applications. The Government should also get the mortgaged lands redeemed and distribute them amongst the displaced persons. The displaced cultivators should also be given a share out of 28,000 acres of *shamilat* land.

Then, I would refer to the widow homes which have been set up at four places. I understand that the widow home established at Hoshiarpur has been closed down which has resulted in a great hardship to the poor widows. I would appeal to the Government in the interest of these homeless and destitute widows that these Ashrams should continue to function for their welfare. The Government should also give more loans to the urban displaced persons especially for building houses.

Sardar Chanan Singh (Tanda) (Punjabi): Sir, this demand has been under discussion in the House since this morning. I would like to make a suggestion with regard to our share of the money deposited with the Central Co-operative Bank which is at present lying in Pakistan. This sum amounts to Rs. 58 lakhs. I wonder why when the Government is recovering rent and land revenue from the people, it does not recover its share of the money from Pakistan, the money which is lying in the Co-operative Banks functioning there. Sir, the first demand of the refugees is that their money deposited in the Co-operative Banks should be returned to them. In my district alone, there are about 1,50,000 displaced persons who are constituents of these banks and to whom these banks owe about 60 lakhs of rupees. They are now in a destitute condition. While explaining this important point, the Minister concerned has stated that its discussion is not conducive to the maintenance of law and order in the State. On the one hand, the Government wishes to promote the co-operative movement and on the other lakhs of rupees are being withheld from the distressed people. I would suggest, Sir, that immediate steps be taken by the Government to get this money for the people in order to enable them to rehabilitate themselves.

Sir, the second important matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is this. Harijans have been allotted land in mountainous and sub-montane *ilaga* where nobody else would

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have liked to settle. They have reclaimed that rocky and marshy land, and built their homes there. But it is a matter for regret that those destitute people are being ejected from there. In this connection, I saw the Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur district who told me that legally they could not be allotted any land and if they did not leave that land he would have to use Police force for this purpose. I request, Sir, that they should not be subjected to this ill-treatment as they have no other source of livelihood.

Then, Sir, in my district, some people have been allotted such houses as do not exist at all. Similarly, such land has been allotted to people over which the river Beas is flowing. Many poor people who were allotted land are again being displaced without any rhyme or reason and they want to end their lives in despair. Then the Government blames us by saying that the Communists unnecessarily interfere with the administration. I submit, Sir, that by its own half-hearted and muddle headed policies, the Government is creating more Communists. The people who are being compelled to leave their homes and hearths will surely wreak vengeance on the Government. Recently, in Haryana, to which place Shri Jagat Ram belongs, tenants in four villages have been ejected. I saw the Deputy Commissioner in this connection. He told me that the tenants were not legally authorised to keep that land in their possession and if they did not vacate it, the Police would have to use force. Evidence is being fabricated that the owners of that land had been cultivating their land by means of tractors for the last 4 years while the fact is that nobody is in possession of a tractor. Sir, if things continue to drift in this manner, the situation will go from bad to worse.

Then, Sir, a sum of the order of Rs. 75,26,000/- has been set apart to ply buses and a profit of about Rs. 14 lakhs is said to have accrued from the operation of the bus services. I challenge the veracity of this statement and would suggest the formation of a Committee consisting of the Minister himself, Members of this House and the private lorry owners to make a detailed enquiry into this matter. The profit may be due to the increase in the fare between Amritsar and Jullundur which has been raised from rupee one to Rs. 1/9/-. Again, it has been said that by allowing 25% depreciation, after 4 years the price of a lorry is reduced to 41% of the actual cost. This is also wrong. As a matter of fact, these departments provide

good ground for nepotism and jobbery to flourish. This policy of nationalisation of road transport is not in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Government will have to pay compensation to the private operators as is being done in the case of the abolition of *Jagirdari* in other States.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan: The hon. Member is in favour of the policy of nationalisation without compensation in Kashmir. I think he should have no objection if the same policy is followed in the Punjab also.

Sardar Chanan Singh : Then Sir, a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs has been earmarked in the Budget for the Publicity Department of which Rs. 4 lakhs will be spent on the subordinate staff and Rs. one lakh for the maintenance of officers while the remaining two lakhs of rupees will be utilised for propaganda purposes. Sir, I have already given a sample of the propaganda that is being carried on.

A sum of Rs. 20,000/- has been set apart for being spent on the maintenance of detenus. Last year, a sum of Rs. 25,000/- was provided under this item but only Rs. 14,000/- was spent. We were under detention and we know that no family allowance was allowed to us. I, therefore, suggest that there is no use in making this provision.

Sir, next comes the Home Defence Department. Out of Rs. 6,00,000/- provided for this department, more than 4 lakhs of rupees will be spent on the establishment and the remaining will be spent on the purchase of fire engines. It is strange that a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs is being spent on the establishment of such a small department. Under this Government, a very heavy expenditure is being incurred on the administration while very little is being spent for the actual benefit of the public at large. And to meet this heavy expenditure the Government has to levy new taxes on the people. The truth is that the henchmen of the Ministers approach them with requests to give employment to their sons who have become Graduates and in order to provide them the Ministers have to maintain these departments.

Shri Dev Raj Anand (Ambala Cantt) (Hindi) : Sir, through you I want to point out to the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation, that it was the Congress that had agreed to the division of the

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Punjab; none of the refugees came to this side of his own accord. The refugees have put in their claims for their urban immovable property left in Pakistan. Its value runs into crores of rupees. Most of these claims have been verified. I, therefore, request the Government to take steps to decide the question of payment of compensation to them at a very early date as day by day the condition of the refugees in general is going from bad to worse.

Then, Sir, I regret to bring to the notice of this House that according to certain newspapers of our State, the Government intends to free itself from the obligation to compensate the refugees for their losses by giving them only ten per cent of the amounts of their claims. I may point out to the Government that the proposed compensation is very meagre and I request the House to demand an adequate compensation in this respect.

Further, Sir, one cannot find a single instance in the history of the world in which such stupendous migration of population as here took place. The sacrifices made and the sufferings undergone by our refugee brethren at the time of the Partition stand unparalleled in history. Therefor, Sir, I want to request the State Government to impress upon the Government of India the fact that the entire responsibility of compensating the refugees lies upon its shoulders.

Through you, Sir, I also want to point out to the hon. Members of this House, that the Government has already done a great injustice to the poor refugees by imposing cuts, in some cases to the extent of 95%, on their claims for the allotment of agricultural lands. Now, it again intends to displace them by introducing agrarian reforms in this State.

These poor refugee allottees have purchased tractors and have invested thousands of rupees for the proper cultivation of these lands. How these people have been able to invest such large sums for agricultural improvement is a painful story. Each case has a different story. Some have sold away their jewellery, others have got loans from the Government or from their friends and so on. My hon. Friends are fully aware of the fact that it is due to their ceaseless efforts, hard work and enterprising spirit that the lands of East Punjab have become more productive and are now able to produce many times more than what they did before the partition.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that 99% of the bus services in the State are being operated by the refugees. It would be another hard hit on them, if the Government nationalizes these services. These people had to work hard and invest a lot to put the motor transport industry on its feet again after the disruption that overtook it as a result of the partition.

In 1947, when Mahatma Gandhi came to Rawalpindi and stayed with me, addressing a gathering of 25 thousand, he had advised the people to continue to live there in spite of the heavy odds facing them. For some time, our people stayed there as advised by him. The conditions, however, became so unbearable after the partition that we were obliged to leave our houses and move to this side of the country. I want to remind you, Sir, of the courage and bravery of the men and women of our side. They sacrificed all they had in the cause of freedom and honour. My heart sinks and so I cannot relate to this House how 76 ladies threw themselves into a well preferring death to falling into the hands of the Muslim *goondas*. The people coming from Pakistan have made greater sacrifices for the attainment of freedom than the people living on this side. But I regret to point out to the hon. Members of this House, that in spite of all their sacrifices and sufferings, a step motherly treatment is being meted out to them. I want to draw their attention to the other side of the picture also. I have received three or four letters from certain friends in Pakistan. In those letters, they have informed me that their Government is giving a sort of pension of which the value varies from Rs 250/- to Rs. 300/- to those persons who have left their properties worth thousands of rupees in India and are now unable to do any work there. How we wish that our Government had also taken a similar step. I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that with the passage of time the condition of our refugees is going from bad to worse. They have neither houses to live in nor any means of earning a living. I, therefore, request the Government to give more attention to the problem of the refugees. For instance, it should pay attention to the condition of evacuee houses in this State which is deteriorating day by day for want of timely repairs. I request the Government to get the repairs carried out annually like the owners of private houses. In case, it does not take up

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this responsibility the time is not far off when these houses will collapse and the poor refugees will again be left shelterless. We know the Government is not going to rebuild these houses.

With these words, I request the Government to realise its duty towards the refugees and try to solve their difficulties.

Shri Jagat Ram (Hoshiarpur) (Hindi) : Sir, I beg to submit that no other country in the World has ever had to face such a difficult problem as that of the resettlement of millions of refugees. Our Government had had to make arrangements for the resettlement of about four million people.

Sir, I want to point out to the Government that our refugees had left more land in Pakistan than that left by the Muslims on this side of the Punjab. It would have been proper on the part of the Government of India to have claimed from Pakistan 10 to 20 lakh acres of land which our brethren had left there in excess.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. members should not make any reference to another Country. He should speak to the motion under consideration.

Shri Jagat Ram: Sir, this discussion relates to the refugees and their claims. Therefore, there will be no harm if we make a reference to Pakistan. What I want to impress upon this House is that our Government should have raised this issue in the United Nations Organization, if Pakistan had refused to give us as much area of land as they received in excess of what that the Muslims had left. I am confident, Sir, that the United Nations Organization would have decided this case in favour of our Country.

Then, Sir, I want to point out to this House that it is due to the weakness of our Government that a sum of Rs. 58 lakhs belonging to the Central Co-operative Bank, Hoshiarpur, is still locked up in Pakistan and it has failed to recover this amount so far. I need not add that the Co-operative Bank Hoshiarpur was a very prosperous institution before the partition. That money could easily be advanced to the peasants in the form of loans but as a result of the partition, it has been left in Pakistan while the

rural economy of this State has been totally shattered. Not to speak of paying interest to the depositors, the Bank has not been left even the original Capital. Had the Government taken a bold step on this issue and made representation to the Government of India, it would have succeeded in getting back the money from the Government of West Punjab. If that was not possible we could at least get some loans so that the people of Hoshiarpur could have managed to promote and advance the Co-operative movement and helped to maintain the old standard of rural economy.

Sir, the allotment of land has been made in a very haphazard manner. The area surrounding Tandla in District Hoshiarpur was previously inhabited by about 1,50,000 'Gujjars' who migrated to Pakistan at the time of Partition. This land which was once productive is now under a wild growth of reeds and prickly bush etc. This land which was of poor quality was allotted to those who had all along lived on fertile and productive lands. They were not contented with this sort of allotment made to them and soon after they transferred these lands to tenants on a nominal rental and left the place with the result that in the absence of proper care, the lands soon turned into a jungle abounding in wild animals like blue bulls, pigs and leopards. These wild animals have struck terror in the minds of the people who live in the surrounding areas and they are in constant fear of their lives. All this to my mind, is the outcome of the wrong policy followed by the Rehabilitation Department. Sir, this is the area which if paid proper attention, can yield a good deal. I understand that about 50,000 acres of land can easily be reclaimed for cultivation, but no efforts have been made to bring this land under the plough. After having a survey made of the housing accommodation in the area around my own town. I suggested to the Government to establish a refugee camp there for I believed the housing accommodation in my town was quite enough to accommodate at least 4,000 families but the pity is that the authorities did not pay any heed to this proposal. The buildings got damaged, the material was removed and the houses were rendered un-habitable.

Then, Sir, corruption is rampant in certain sections of the Rehabilitation Department. It is a matter of utter shame that the Patwaris while delivering the allotment chits, do not hesitate to

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demand illegal gratification from those poor wretched people who have lost their all in Pakistan while the authorities at the helm of affairs are anxious to provide the necessary help and succour to the displaced persons in the matter of their rehabilitation, petty officials like the Patwaris etc. frustrate their efforts by resorting to such malpractices. Many officers, no doubt, have put in laborious and honest work in this gigantic task but they have also been brought into disrepute by the misdeeds of the rest of the staff. I, therefore, submit to the Government to rise to the occasion and take effective steps to eradicate corruption from this Department and wash away the stigma cast on its fair name.

Sir, the work of deciding the revision applications in respect of allotment of land is being carried on very slowly. An hon. Member of this House has declared that he is in know of more than 500 instances where the applications for review have been lying unattended to. Similarly, I think that there must be many more cases in which justice has not been done. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that these applications should be properly considered and just action taken without any further delay. I feel that the Financial Commissioner alone cannot deal with such a large number of applications and therefore, urge that this responsibility should be transferred to some other honest officers who should mete out justice and help the displaced people to rehabilitate themselves properly.

Shri Teg Ram (Khuian Sarwar) (Hindi): Sir, today the House is having discussion on the Rehabilitation Department. Many hon. Members, during the course of their speeches, have pointed towards certain shortcomings and flaws in the working of this department. Nobody can deny that the problem of rehabilitation of millions of our displaced brethren who having been practically ruined on account of the fateful partition of our State migrated to India was not an ordinary one. When they crossed over to India, they were penniless and had got no means to make both ends meet. Their rehabilitation was, in fact, not a child's play. This was, of course, something unprecedented not only in the history of India but in the history of the entire human race. In view of the magnitude and complexity of the problem I am of the opinion that the hon. Members who resort to undue criticism of the Government and find faults with its policy do not seem to look at the issue in its proper perspective

Mr. Speaker, through you, I wish to point out to them that it is very easy to criticise but difficult to act. As a matter of fact, both the Central as well as the State Governments deserve appreciation and congratulations for the headway that they have so far been able to make in this direction. We cannot, however, think that the whole problem has been properly solved and that all the displaced persons have been satisfactorily rehabilitated. Further, it cannot be taken to mean that all their difficulties have been removed. Sir, in fact, much remains to be done. Many of our displaced brethren are still in distress. I, therefore, take this opportunity to invite the attention of the Government towards some of the most important matters concerning the refugees.

Sir, the event of partition brought untold miseries to the people. Their business was uprooted and their movable as well as immovable properties were left in Pakistan. However, it is a heartening factor that some of them have been allotted lands after imposing certain cuts. Besides, there were people who neither possessed lands nor owned any other property in the Pakistan, I mean the labouring class. On their arrival in the Indian territory, they were also allotted lands for cultivation. But, Sir, it is a matter for deep regret that the Government has now cancelled those allotments and have allotted those lands to big landlords with the result that the condition of these poor people has further deteriorated. The reserved area has also been allotted to big people.

Then, Sir, for the last some months, it has been made a rule that no peasant who previously used to cultivate land in the reserved area on lease would be allowed to settle there. In this respect, the Rehabilitation Minister was pleased to state in reply to my question that there were 47,000 families of cultivators who cultivated lands before the partition who had to come over to India. Thereafter, I put a supplementary enquiry as to how many of them had been allotted lands but the Minister could not reply. Sir, I think that there are still many peasant families who are idle, and who have got no home to live in and no source of income. Just a short while ago, I referred this matter to the Minister who pleaded his helplessness to provide lands to the landless peasants. It is a matter of common knowledge that in the famine-stricken areas of Hissar, innumerable cattle died of starvation. It is a pity that people in this *ilaga* did not have even fodder to feed their cattle.

[Shri Teg Ram]

In my constituency Khuian Sarwar, in a village named Dalmir Khag, there used to live a man with his family. The poor man was ejected from his house. Having been provided with no other roofed accommodation, whatsoever he along with his children was compelled to live under the shade of a charpoy in the open compound in the scorching heat of the sun. At last, this person left that village and proceeded towards Bikaner where his little son aged two years passed away.

Mr. Speaker, this village was visited by several officials including the Sub Divisional Officer and all of them had reported that not a single man in that village was without roofed accommodation. There is another village named Diwan Khera situated at a distance of about five miles from the border. This village was at one time mainly inhabited by the Muslims. The refugees residing in the evacuee houses in this village, too were treated likewise. They protested against their ejection from these houses but their hue and cry only fetched them rebukes from the officers. Not only this. These officers were bold enough to tell the poor refugees to go back to the places from where they had come. Left with no other alternative, they most reluctantly put their household effects on their bullock carts and marched to the Pakistan side. The Indian Military stationed at the border checked them but they succeeded in reaching the area across the border. Later on, these people were persuaded to come back. But instead of being shown any sympathy or given houses to live in or being provided with land for cultivation they have been implicated in a false case.

Mr. Speaker, these forty-seven thousand people who have migrated to this State, after having left behind their lands in Pakistan, have here been provided neither houses to live in nor lands to cultivate. One, therefore, feels astonished at the manner in which the allotment scheme is being worked out in the State. While the persons actually residing in big cities like Delhi, Jullundur etc. have been allotted big houses and plots of land measuring 8 to 10 acres in villages, the poor landless peasants have been totally ignored. In these circumstances, I would like to request the Minister incharge of the Rehabilitation Department to pay his special attention towards improving the plight of the poor tenants. They are still being

ejected by the big landlords who want to keep their lands for self cultivation with the aid of tractors. I would further suggest that the leased lands may also be given to the refugee peasants whether the Government acquires those lands or makes some other arrangements in that connection. This is most essential because unless and until they are properly rehabilitated, they cannot rest. Each head of the family has often to support a number of dependents and it is only when all these persons are settled that the Government should claim to have solved the problem satisfactorily.

It would perhaps be of interest to the hon. Members to know that the Department of Rehabilitation has been acting irresponsibly and committing irregularities. Some persons who originally belonged to Abohar area had purchased lands and settled in the Bhawalpur State. In consequence of the partition of the country, they came back to Abohar. Amongst them were two real brothers. One of them was recognised by the Department as a Punjabi and allotted land while the other was considered as a non-Punjabi and his claim was ignored. The latter is, therefore in a great fix, as he is neither being owned by the Punjab Government nor by the Central Government. Quoting another instance of the kind, I would refer to an incident that took place about a year ago in Jamnu Basti and Sukhera Basti near Abohar Town. Certain refugees who had not been allotted any land were living there and used to earn their livelihood by running petty shops. They were compelled to quit their places. At last when they resorted to hunger strike they were given assurances that they would be provided with houses. Till now they are without houses.

Coming next to the prevalence of corruption in the Department of Rehabilitation, I cannot help saying that the Patwaris engaged in connection with the work of rehabilitation were from the outset resolved to make good all the losses they had sustained in Pakistan by indulging in corrupt practices. Referring to the manner in which the money earned through illegal means is pocketed, I have only to say that a few months back when the land was being allotted to persons in groups of six each the officers at the helm of the affairs managed to make a good deal of money. Amongst them there was a Tahsildar who shared his ill-gotten money with a Patwari serving under him lest the latter should

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expose him. The patwaris accepted illegal gratification even from their own relations by helping them in the matter of allotment of reserved land.

In view of such a sad state of affairs, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to eradicate this evil practice from the Department and to provide the labourers and the peasants, living both in the towns and the villages, with adequate facilities for earning their livelihood. With these words, I resume my seat.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh (Moga-Dharmkot) (*Punjabi*) Mr. Speaker : the problem of Rehabilitation was a very gigantic problem and our Government has rightly been spending huge sums of money on providing relief and shelter to the displaced persons. But Sir, the pity is that the funds earmarked for these purposes are very often exhausted even before the orders conveying the sanction cross the Simla Hills. In this way, the displaced persons in whose name this Department of Rehabilitation is being run are deprived of the financial assistance meant for them. Not only this, they are also denied access to the higher officers lest they should express their grievances in person. In support of my statement I would like to quote the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur, who has issued standing orders that a refugee desirous of seeing him should first get a chit from the Revenue Assistant and that anybody else wanting to see him must come through his Personal Assistant. Once, I accompanied the refugees to the Deputy Commissioner and asked him as to what procedure he had laid down for a man who wanted to complain against the attitude of the Revenue Assistant or the Personal Assistant. In reply, the Deputy Commissioner was bold enough to tell me to refer the matter to the Government. It is on account of this sort of indifferent attitude on the part of the Deputy Commissioner that the refugees there have to run a hundred and one times to the officers for the satisfaction of their needs.

I would submit to the Ministers, through you, Sir, that whenever they go on tour they should verify the Bank accounts of the Government employees—right from the officer at the top to the chaprasi at the bottom—and, where necessary, make enquiries in regard to the sources of their income. As a matter of fact, corruption in this Department has reached a stage where the poor refugees have begun

to realize that it is wiser to bribe some officer to be able to get houses or lands allotted to them.

I make bold to say, Sir, that this Cabinet of eight Ministers could do a lot for the prosperity and wellbeing of this small State comprising of 12 districts, if they had the mind to do so. If our hon. Ministers pay a surprise visit to our district, they will be astonished to see the state of affairs prevailing there. Sir, I want to assure the House, through you, that I am not making any misleading propaganda. These are heard facts which nobody can deny.

In Ferozepur, people keep waiting for days on end but even then they fail to get an interview with the Deputy Commissioner. The plight of the poor interview-seekers is really pitiable. The condition of the Harijans was already bad but that of the refugees is worse. They are facing great hardships.

The Government should exempt the refugees from the payment of rent in respect of evacuee houses occupied by them and thereby alleviate a little of their distress. With their present meagre and slender resources, these destitutes are being hard put to it, so far as the payment of rents is concerned. Some of them have been served with notices to pay such large sums as Rs. 300/- on account of arrears of rent. These poor people are not in a position to pay such sums. So I assured them that I would voice their feelings before the Government and try to get them exempted from its payment.

We are very grateful to the Government for its having been so gracious and kind to the Harijans. We are confident that now when our Ministers who represent the masses are at the helm of affairs, they would make an all out effort to better their lot still further. The Harijans of my constituency are experiencing a considerable difficulty in getting their clothes washed. The washermen refuse to do their work. No doubt, the Government has enacted laws to liquidate untouchability yet in actual practice it is still persisting. I would request the Government to take strong action to eradicate this evil.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra (Ludhiana City, North) (*Hindi*): Sir, the rehabilitation Demand has been discussed at length by my colleagues in the House. Some of them have put forth very constructive suggestions which if given a practical shape can go a long way in solving this problem. But my hon. Friends opposite

[Dewan Jagdish Chandra]

have made some suggestions which they themselves would not have liked to accept were they in our position.

The partition has created such problems for India as have no parallel in the history of the world. It was a gigantic task which this infant State was called upon to accomplish. Our Government steered through it with courage and perserverance. They had not got 'the Alladin's Lamp' to work miracles and change the face of things overnight.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : People on this side of the border have not been generous to us.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra : I quite agree with my sister that the people on this side have not shown any soft corner for them but there is no gainsaying the fact that this State and the Central Government have been very kind and generouns to the displaced persons.

One of my hon. Friends sitting opposite has made a suggestion for the imposition of an 'Independence Levy' in the State to help the displaced persons. My suggestion is that this tax should be imposed in all the States of the Indian Union. It is obvious that if the partition was effected for the common good of all the nationals of India, the incidence of the partition should not be allowed to fall on the Punjabis alone. So I reiterate that this burden should be shared by all the Indians alike. This is the only way of minimising the miseries of the teeming millions of displaced persons.

India is fast moving towards nationalization. Land, factories transport, in fact every thing is being nationalized and I am sure that the policy of nationalization can solve all our economic problems.

Some hon. Friends have criticised the policy of applying graded cuts on land. I may tell them that this was inevitable due to the fact that we had a smaller area of land at our disposal. So far as the rehabilitation of urban refugees is concerned our Government has not been able to pay much attention to it. There is much congestion in cities due to an acute shortage of housing accommodation. So many families are residing in one house!

I think that if our Government pays proper attention towards the work of rural rehabilitation, it can lessen congestion in cities. I make an earnest request to the hon. Minister to create such an atmosphere in the rural areas that people may be able to get all reasonable facilities in regard to education, medical aid, means of communications and security of life. We should also provide them with means of earning their livelihood. If we want that our State should prosper and that peace and plenty should exist in the State, we should take immediate steps to uplift the poor peasant.

Then, Sir, I am proud to say that my Government is going ahead with the Capital Project at a good speed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You are talking like a Minister.

Shri Jagdish Chandra : I would submit, Sir, that I am a member of the party in power and so I am also responsible for all the acts of omission and commission of the Government. Therefore, Sir, I have got the right to say that my Government is doing such and such things. I was submitting that our Government is going ahead with the colossal task of executing the Capital Project, the Community Project and other Development schemes.

I conclude my speech with the remark that while so many schemes of public utility are engaging the attention of the Government, there are so many other problems which still remain untouched.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (Hindi): Sir, the renowned Urdu poet Zauq has said :

गुलशर रंग रंग से है जीनते चमन, ऐ जौक इस जहां को है ज़ेब इखतलाफ से ।

ਗੁਲਹਾਏ ਰੰਗ ਰੰਗ ਸੇ ਹੈ ਜੀਨਤੇ ਚਮਨ, ਐ ਜ਼ੋਕ ਇਸ ਜਹਾਂ ਕੋ ਹੈ ਜ਼ੋਬ ਇਖਤਲਾਫ ਸੇ ।

My country being under a democratic form of Government, I have always been able to give expression to my difference of opinion with the policy of the Government in the matter of rehabilitating the refugees. I think that our Government has not acted boldly in tackling the rehabilitation problem. The result of following an irresolute policy was that for a long time we could not decide where to settle

[Shri Ram Chandra Comrade]

the refugees. Comparatively, the Government of Pakistan was more resolute than our Government in this matter. That is why we failed to mobilize the labour that was available in abundance and to put it to some use. Most of the displaced persons have been sitting idle for a long time. I have been raising my voice against this policy though my voice was feeble.

When the country was partitioned, I had remarked that the time had come to change the capitalist order of society. I reiterate we will have to take up boldly the work of bringing about such a change in society. We have seen by experience that it is not possible to distribute wealth equitably under the present order of things. We have not been quite successful in our efforts to rehabilitate the displaced persons and many corrupt practices have marred the work of allotment of lands and houses. Nobody pays any heed to the complaints made by the poor and weak members of our society. The main cause of all these mal-practices and the difficulties experienced by the ordinary man is the fact that our Government had no definite, resolute and considered rehabilitation policy. We tried to rehabilitate the displaced persons while keeping intact the existing capitalistic order of society and that is why we failed in our endeavour owing to the weakness of the system itself. The result of all our efforts is that even now the problem is far from being solved.

Those who have come from Pakistan have not been able to stand on their legs with the aid of loans advanced to them. I think that so long as we do not deal with them in a liberal manner, it will not be possible for such people to gain the positions which they have lost on account of the partition. At least a sum of rupees fifteen crores should be given by the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation in the form of loans to the industrialists so that industry may begin to flourish again in this State.

Another problem which is a source of trouble to many people is that of housing. This difficulty is also being experienced by Government employees. I, therefore request the Government to pay its attention towards this important problem. I have seen that thousands of families are living in dirty and dingy houses in our cities. The houses that are unfit for residential purposes should either be utilized for other purposes or be demolished so that the

health of these families may not be affected adversely. It is regrettable that the Government of Punjab has not been able to mobilize the energy of the people and to get their full co-operation. I, however, congratulate it for permitting the displaced persons to adjust the loans taken by them against their claims which have been verified. With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (Hindi) : Sir, two of the hon. Members from Gurgaon have pleaded the case of the Meos. It has been stated that the last census was defective in many respects. In the first place, thousands of persons are left out and their names do not appear on the register. Then there were cases in which the names were wrongly entered or the names of the fathers were wrong. As a result of all this, thousand of Meos have been left out and they are unable to get back their lands, which they had to leave during the riots. In order to do justice to such persons, it is essential that some speedy and direct method should be adopted. Either a committee of M. L. A's. and Ministers should be constituted or some tribunal of the High Court Judges may be formed to go into such cases at once and to provide relief to these people. Moreover, there are certain Meos whose names appear on the electoral rolls of Uttar Pradesh. This fact may also be taken into consideration as evidence of such people having stayed on throughout in India. I would request the Government to treat such persons as displaced persons because, in fact, there is very little difference between them and the refugees from West Punjab. They were also compelled by the circumstances to leave their hearths and homes and to undergo sufferings. Some of them had to leave for Pakistan and then come back to their country disappointed. In the matter of their rehabilitation, the Government should be kind and sympathetic in its attitude towards them.

This is a small matter involving the rehabilitation of not more than 600 or 700 Meo families but it has a great symbolic value. It will prove whether secularism has really taken roots in the minds of the people of the Punjab. If we rehabilitate these Meo families, we shall be able to claim that ours is a truly secular State but if they are not resettled, Pakistan and other countries will be in a position to question the *Bona fides* of our secularism. This is a question of the fundamental principles on which our Constitution is based. With the rehabilitation of

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]

these 600 or 700 Meo families, we shall be laying the foundation of real secularism in the State. Not caring for the vested interests of a few persons, these families should be restored the possession of their houses.

During the British Government lasting more than a hundred years, there always used to be a department to deal with war pensions and awards. It used to be a sort of appendage to the administration. The same is the case with our Rehabilitation Department. The Government must fix a dead line by which time it should complete all its work in connection with the resettlement of refugees. A date should also be fixed by which all the displaced persons should be paid compensation for their losses and after that there should be no distribution between the refugees and the local persons. The representatives of the displaced persons are in a better position to voice their view point. I shall only say that some dead line for the completion of this work must be fixed.

Sardar Waryam Singh (Serah) (Punjabi): Sir, the Government deserves our gratitude for what it has done for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons, though I wish to make a few suggestions in order to remove some defects in the working of the Rehabilitation Department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member should try to be brief because three more hon. Members have to speak before this sitting terminates.

Sadar Waryam Singh: If that is the case and I am to be allowed only four or five minutes, some other hon. Member may be called upon to speak. I am prepared to resume my seat.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of order, Sir. If the hon. Members are allowed to speak for five minutes only, they will not be able to express in such a short time. It will simply amount to the inclusion of their names in the list of those who took part in the proceedings of today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: This is no point of order. The Chair can use its discretion in the matter of allotment of time to the hon. Members for expressing their views.

Sardar Waryam Singh : I want to draw the attention of the Government to some of the difficulties of the people of my district. The principle of review of the orders relating to the allotment of land has been accepted by the Government but I know of many cases in which these orders were reviewed two or three years ago but no action has so far been taken to implement them. I can cite a number of such instances pertaining to the allotment of land in the suburbs of Batala. People think that the parties who are to be adversely affected approach the authorities and do not let the orders be put into effect. This impression should be removed and possession should be delivered to the persons who have been allotted lands on review of the previous orders.

In addition to this, there is a place known as Shakarpura situated at a distance of two or three furlongs from Batala. The late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi ordered that the houses situated there belonged to the non-proprietors and these should be allotted to refugee non-proprietors but I am sorry to say that nothing has been done in the matter so far. I have drawn the attention of the Tehsildar towards this matter several times and have requested him to allot those houses according to the instructions issued by the former Minister for Rehabilitation, but he says that the Deputy Commissioner has not approved of that scheme. I told him that he could allot a few houses to those persons whom the Deputy Commissioner wanted to favour but the remaining houses should be allotted to the non-proprietors, but to no effect.

There is another place known as Saingarh Kulian near Pathankot. A number of four-marla plots have been allotted to some persons there but houses on those plots are being constructed by others. The allottees of these plots have complained to the Deputy Commissioner several times but he pays no heed to their complaints. In some cases, the Deputy Commissioner has cancelled the allotment of plots and has declared those persons who are constructing buildings on them as the authorised allottees.

Another thing which I want to point out is that in the Budget for the current year, there is no provision for any kind of subsidy, grants or loans for the rural refugees. There are many villages in which there are no houses and the peasants have to live in tents

[Sardar Waryam Singh]

There should be some provision for building houses for these people. The Government has decided to postpone the recovery of loans from the urban refugees till such time as they receive the first instalment of compensation against their urban property claims. I shall request it to postpone the recovery of taccavi loans from the villagers also until their claims are assessed.

The Government deserves our appreciation for the manner in which it has tackled the refugee problem but there is a great need for maintaining strict control over the officers in order to ensure that they carry out the policy of the Government faithfully and honestly. Instances have come to my notice where people were actually living in some houses and the Inspector concerned reported them to be vacant and got them allotted to other persons. This caused a great inconvenience to the persons who were previously living there. In Batala, an inspector delivered the possession of a house to a displaced person after making him pay the former occupant's electricity bill. In order to avoid being unpopular among the public it is necessary for the Government to see that its policy is properly carried out by its officers.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (Punjabi) : Sir, as you allow very little time to the members belonging to my party and probably do not want us to express our views in detail, I shall say only this much that I fully support the cause of the displaced persons and request the Government to extend to them the maximum possible help for their rehabilitation.

Shri Kesho Das (Pathankot) (Hindi) : Sir, as the time is short, instead of making a regular speech I would like to enumerate the suggestions that I have to make to the Government.

(1) Taccavi loans should not be recovered from the refugees for at least ten years because they have not yet been able to stand on their feet.

(2) Houses should be built for providing shelter to about two thousand refugees who are working as labourers on the road-construction work in Pathankot and are passing their days in the open on street pavements. For this purpose, ten times the number of houses already built will be required.

(3) A large area of the evacuee land allotted to the refugees is waste land. They should be given tractors on loan to bring it under cultivation.

(4) Shops should be given to those stall-holders in Pathankot whose stalls have been dismantled.

(5) The land near the border which is in I or II grades should be converted into grade IV so that it may be brought under cultivation by the refugees and they may be able to increase the food production of our State.

(6) Refugee peasants should be given more facilities such as loans for sinking tube-wells and purchasing tractors.

(7) No rent should be charged from them for evacuee's houses occupied by them in towns since they are already finding it difficult to make their both ends meet.

(8) A cut should be applied to the property of big landlords so that the landless may be provided with land, the houseless with houses and the unemployed with employment.

(9) Landless people such as the Harijans should be collectively allotted land for cultivation so that they may be able to make full use of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I will stop you at No. 10. *(Laughter)*

Shri Kesho Dass : (10). Refugees to whose claims for land it has been applied should be given compensation for it.

(11) Dispensaries and hospitals should be opened in the border areas for the benefit of refugees living there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : That would do.

Rai Raghuvir Singh (Seraj) (Hindi): Sir, it is true the Government has been trying its best to help the refugees; still what it has been able to do cannot be called 'complete' just as a patient is not called healthy so long as he is not fully cured. It is, however, good that they have formed associations through which they bring their grievances to the notice of the Government but it is regrettable indeed that despite the fact that these associations make very

[Rai Raghuvir Singh]

constructive suggestions they are not given the attention they deserve. For instance, the Refugees Association Ambala had represented to the authorities that lands should be allotted to those refugees who though settled in towns wanted to pursue agricultural profession which was their hereditary calling but which they had to give up through no fault of their own.

The deputation that they had sent to the authorities was told that they could not now go back to the land since they had settled in the towns. I admit, Sir, that there is paucity of land and until Bhakara Dam is completed it may not be possible to increase appreciably the cultivable area but surely those refugees who were anxious to take to agriculture again should have been accommodated somehow or other! This could be done by giving them preference in the matter of allotment over those who were holders of squares (*Murrabe*) in West Punjab, thanks to the meritorious services they had rendered to the British Government! Instead of allotting land to such absentee landlords it should have been allotted to those who were ready to till it with their own hands.

True, owing to its own multiplying liabilities, the Government is anxious to make recoveries of taccavi loans but I think the matter should be postponed until these poor refugee peasants are able to stand on their own feet and their economic condition is improved. The responsibility for their being uprooted lies with the Government. On account of the principle of self-determination accepted by our leaders, these people had had to leave their homes and undergo untold sufferings. Now at last that they have been resettled, they should be treated with kindness and sympathy in the matter of recovery of taccavi loans. To force them to do so immediately regardless of their condition would be ignoring their sacrifices.

There is no denying the fact that the rehabilitation of millions of refugees was a stupendous task but I regret to point out that from one particular view-point it has been tackled in a somewhat haphazard manner. What I mean to say is that resettlement has not been made according to the need of filling the void in different *ilagas* created by the migration of persons of a particular profession. For instance in the *ilaga* where there was dearth of artisans, people following this profession have not been resettled. Resettle

ment of refugees has not been made profession-wise. While at one place there is a surplus of artisans, at others there is a complete dearth of them.

As regards the grant of compensation to the refugees for urban immovable property left by them in Pakistan, in my opinion if our Government takes a strong stand in this matter I don't think Pandit Nehru who has already a soft corner in his heart for them will allow any injustice to be done to them

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Your time is over.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday, 8th July, 1952

Chandigarh

Chief S. P. Sabha
Punjab
Chandigarh

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Chief Reporter
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